



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Endeavour Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Issaquah

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: May 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in March 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2014

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

Sustaining Green School recognition:

Achieved for

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2021-22



Endeavour teachers hold up the Green Schools recognition banner.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Endeavour Elementary maintained an estimated 40 percent recycling rate.
- Each student in Ms. Ralph's classroom adopted another class and visited that class regularly to share reuse and recycling information and to monitor classroom efforts.
- The school collected compostable materials in its lunchroom.
- Student Waste Watchers monitored lunchroom containers to ensure proper sorting of recyclable and compostable materials.
- Endeavour participated in the district-wide waste free lunch challenge to promote reusable and recyclable containers for lunches brought from home.
- Issaquah School District provided recycling bins next to garbage bins at school entrances to increase recycling from families and visitors.



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- The school reduced paper use by switching to electronic newsletters and fliers.
- Classrooms and copy room used GOOS (Good on One Side) paper reuse bins.
- Many teachers chose to collect compostable materials in their classrooms.
- Along with all schools in the district, Endeavour Elementary School eliminated the use of straws during lunch.
- The school participated in a King County waste reduction and recycling assembly, and third-grade classes received King County classroom workshops.
- Fifth-grade students made weekly announcements about Green School conservation practices.
- Custodians reintroduced leftover liquids buckets and strainers to cafeteria sorting stations.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Teachers were asked to elect a Light Watcher, a student classroom job to ensure all lights were turned off in empty rooms.
- Energy conservation labels were posted on light switches and computers to remind school staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Monthly energy conservation reminders were sent to school staff.
- To conserve energy, classroom blinds were closed and technological devices were turned off each night.
- The school's vending machine lights were permanently turned off.
- In its electronic newsletter, the school shared information with families about the school's energy use and conservation practices.
- The Green Team monitored school energy and water use quarterly and displayed charts in the school office showing the district's energy and water use.
- Energy conservation was promoted through Earth Week activities and reminders.



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Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Students created water conservation signs to post near drinking fountains.
- To reduce waste and conserve water, students watched a video on how to use less soap and water, as well as only one paper towel when drying their hands.
- School staff were encouraged to submit work orders to report water leaks to school and district maintenance.
- Cascade Water Alliance installed a rainwater roof collection cistern and a solar panel to drive the pump and drip irrigation for each of the school's six garden beds.
- Students maintained a worm bin and used the compost as mulch for garden beds.
- The school created an outdoor classroom in its on-site wetlands area. Classrooms used the garden for learning opportunities and volunteers assisted with upkeep. The area included benches, trails, interpretive signs, and a viewing platform. Teachers created contaminant identification keys that students used to test the water quality in the on-site wetlands. To allow students to view wildlife in the wetlands, night motion detector cameras were set up four times each year.
- Native plants were planted to filter storm water drainage in the school's bio-swale. Drought-tolerant plants and high quality soils helped conserve water in the garden.
- The school conserved water by installing low-flow faucets and toilets as well as automatic shut-off faucets.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The school earned this recognition by sustaining and building on its Level One through Level Three practices. How the school achieved this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School recognition was offered by King County starting in fall 2014. In spring 2015, Endeavour was the first school to be recognized as a King County Sustaining Green School.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

- In fall 2014, classrooms were offered countertop compost bins to collect their used paper towels, and 26 classrooms opted to participate in this voluntary effort.



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- Student Waste Watchers emptied classroom paper towel bins once each week into a larger container for the custodian to empty into the outdoor organics collection container which was transported to a Cedar Grove Composting facility.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- First-grade student Waste Watchers monitored lunchroom recycling stations and helped students place their items in the correct location.
- The school increased the frequency of waste-free Wednesday lunches from once each month to weekly. On Wednesdays, the Green Team used reminders and tips to encourage students to use durable and recyclable containers.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school implemented new Earth Week activities to promote conservation.
- The school held a challenge for students to decorate classroom GOOS (Good on One Side) bins, which encourage students to reuse paper in the classroom.
- Endeavour's Green Team passed out fliers with tips about how to be green.
- Each Wednesday, the school played an environmentally themed movie during lunch.
- Waste Watchers monitored waste stations during every lunch and made announcements about waste reduction and recycling practices.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- In its cafeteria, the school replaced disposable utensils with reusable utensils.
- With district support, the school kitchen began a weekly School Food Share Program in collaboration with Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. Unopened, packaged items from the school lunch program were picked up by Issaquah Food Bank each week instead of being disposed.



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Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The school participated in the district-wide waste-free lunch competition.
- Green Team members shared what they learned in King County classroom workshops with other students.
- To promote water and energy conservation, the Green Team continued to share tips on energy and water conservation every month.

Sustaining Green School 2021-22

- Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 were invited to complete applications to join the student Green Team, and 15 students were randomly selected.
- The student team cleaned up the school's overgrown garden to prepare for planting in the spring.
- Earth Week projects included collection of used markers to be recycled, and the Green Team created videos and a Kahoot game for each class with prizes for winners. Students were asked to wear blue and green clothing on Earth Day.
- The school maintained waste reduction and recycling practices. The Waste Watchers club continued to monitor recycling and waste during lunches, and created a video about how to monitor in the cafeteria.
- Updated signs were placed on light switches in every room to remind students and staff to turn off lights when leaving rooms.
- Activities and successes were shared in school newsletters. The newsletters included a link to the school website which features the team Padlet and a photo of the Green Schools banner.