



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Enumclaw Middle School

School District: Enumclaw

School Location: Enumclaw

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
August 2013

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School recognition:

Achieved in

- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Enumclaw Middle School maintained a recycling rate of 41 percent.
- During the beginning of the year assembly, the school's waste reduction and recycling goals were presented to students and staff members. Students were asked to wear green to the assembly to show support for the school's goals.
- King County Green Schools Program provided cafeteria and classroom recycling bins and recycling signs for recycling bins.
- In 2013, the school began collecting recyclable and compostable materials in its cafeteria.



Leadership students created and maintained a school garden of drought-tolerant plants



Students refilled their reusable water bottles instead of using single-use plastic bottles



Leadership students toured a wastewater treatment plant



- The school piloted a cafeteria share table for unopened, unwanted food items from the school lunch program. Leftover food was donated to a local food bank.
- The Green Team was trained by a King County representative on how to monitor lunchroom recycling stations and on strategies for reducing food waste.
- Green Team members volunteered to monitor lunchroom recycling stations to assist students with waste sorting and emptying leftover milk before milk cartons were placed in recycling bins.
- Waste reduction and recycling tips and successes were regularly shared during announcements, school assemblies, and in the school's electronic newsletter.
- Custodians periodically shared the school's recycling status and improvements with other staff.
- The school reduced waste by eliminating straws and serving condiments in bulk dispensers in the lunchroom.
- Green Team members created posters about recycling and composting.
- The school used smart boards to limit the use of paper handouts.
- Students created a training video on lunchroom cleanup procedures for incoming Green Team students.
- Art classes used recyclable and compostable materials, such as pizza boxes from the lunchroom, as canvases. Toilet paper rolls, paper cups, newspaper, wire hangers, and nylons were used to make sculptures.
- Students visited Sunrise Elementary to share Enumclaw Middle School's conservation successes and inspire Sunrise students to do the same.
- In January 2016, eighth-grade students received Google Chrome books. Teachers provided information through Google Docs instead of printed handouts and revised essays online instead of students printing multiple copies.
- All leadership classes received King County's Food for Thought workshop in 2017.



Eighth-grade student Sophia Demarco won the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Service Award for Washington State for her environmental education and outreach efforts including sharing what she has learned in classrooms and at a local senior center, and volunteering at a local food bank



- To reduce food waste, the school sent bags of unopened, packaged leftover foods from the school lunch program home with students who could use the food over the weekend.
- To reduce use of single-use plastic bottles, students promoted the school's hydration stations which make it easy to refill durable water bottles.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team used weekly video announcements to share the school-wide energy conservation pledge and provide energy conservation tips and facts.
- "Turn off the lights" stickers were posted by every light switch.
- Lights were sensors were installed to automatically shut off after five minutes without motion.
- During staff meetings, the Green Team advisor reminded staff to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces. Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather to avoid adjusting thermostats.
- In 2015-16, the school created an Instagram account through which students were reminded about energy conservation practices reminders such as dressing for the weather and unplugging chargers when not in use. Over 200 students followed the account within the first year.
- The school closed classroom blinds at the end of the school day to conserve heat and opened them during the school day to make use of daylight.
- Vending machines were EnergyStar certified.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Leadership students:
 - Toured a wastewater treatment facility, then shared what they learned with the school.
 - Created and maintained a school garden using drought-tolerant plants.
 - Incorporated water conservation tips into presentations to Sunrise Elementary School students in March 2016.
 - Shared water conservation information on video announcements and the school Instagram account.
 - Posted water conservation signs by school faucets.



- The Future Farmers of America at Enumclaw High visited Enumclaw Middle School leadership students monthly to teach them about water use practices in agriculture.
- The school district added sprinklers that used less water to the football field. The field was irrigated using a timer so water was only used at night.
- Staff reported any water leaks to the custodians to be repaired.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Enumclaw Middle School sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices and Level Three water conservation strategies. See below for how the school did this each year.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- New energy-efficient lighting was installed in the gym
- A native plant garden was maintained by students.
- Recycling bins were added to the hallways, and leadership students emptied them twice per week.
- Upperclassmen from the Enumclaw High School agriculture program taught lessons once per month on various topics related to the environment such as overuse of land, scarcity of water and prioritizing water use.
- Leadership teacher Karl Karkainen attended King County's Hazards on the Homefront teacher training on household hazardous waste and safer choices. Mr. Karkainen then taught his leadership class lessons on this topic and the class received a King County Hazards on the Homefront presentation.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school offered a new environmental science class.
- Students presented in classrooms and the local senior center about environmental topics and sustainability tips.
- The Green Team began tracking paper use on the main copy machine.

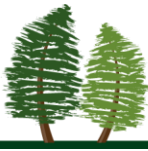


Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- At the start of the school year, leadership students led an assembly for incoming sixth-grade students about the school's waste reduction and recycling practices.
- In December 2018, leadership students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades participated in a King County Green Team workshop to learn about food waste reduction, plan projects, and learn how to conduct a waste audit.
- In April 2019, Leadership Classes and student ASB officers conducted a Trash on a Tarp event which was promoted using scrolling announcements on video monitors, PA announcements, and posters made by Leadership students. The event helped students learn about the composition and volume of waste generated at lunch and highlighted the importance of reducing waste and correctly sorting.
- After the Trash on a Tarp event, ASB officers led an informational campaign to reduce food waste and improve sorting practices. The campaign included a video with tips for reducing food waste and properly sorting garbage, recyclable materials, and compostable materials. The video was shared during morning announcements in all classrooms. Leadership teacher Karl Karkainen shared the presentation at an all-staff meeting.
- ASB students met with school administrators to discuss changes to help the school reduce food waste and improve waste sorting practices.
- Custodian Joan Morgado completed a Building Operators Certification program and increased energy efficiency practices by placing thermostats, lights, appliances, and electronic equipment on a timed schedule to reduce energy after school and on weekends/holidays when the school facility is closed.
- All sixth-grade students studied global water issues, how water resources are impacted by climate change, and the importance of water conservation.



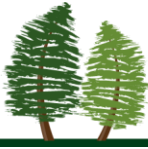
ASB Officers measure waste at a Trash on a Tarp event



- Students were offered the option of participating in an Energy and Environment science course to learn about alternative forms of energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. In 2018-19, the 90 students who took the course completed an energy audit to learn about their own energy use.
- ASB students served as cafeteria waste station monitors. Leadership students were invited to participate in ongoing Green School practices and Green Team projects.
- ASB students met with school administrators to discuss changes to help the school reduce food waste and improve waste sorting practices.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- In December 2019, leadership students participated in a Green Team planning workshop facilitated by a King County Green Schools Program representative. Students discussed and decided on Green School goals for 2019-20.
- Leadership students created and displayed a three-dimensional sign to show typical examples of garbage, recyclable and compostable items used at school.
- The school started to collect used markers to be recycled through the Crayola Color Cycle program. From December 2019 to March 2020, students collected 30 pounds of used markers to be mailed back to Crayola.
- In February 2020, leadership students conducted an observation-based lunchroom waste audit. They used video announcements to share waste audits results and recommendations for reducing waste, recycling, and eliminating contamination in recycling and composting bins.
- Seventh-grade science students learned about the water table, sources of energy and renewable energy, water conservation, and water pollution prevention.
- Principal Jill Barret sent a notice to all school staff to remind them of school policy limiting use of personal coffee pots, refrigerators, etc. to conserve energy. The notice encouraged staff to use shared appliances in the staff lounge.
- Lights in the library were replaced with energy-efficient bulbs.



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Awards

- Enumclaw Middle School Leadership Program received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2014 for its successful lunchroom recycling program.
- Teacher Karl Karkainen received the 2015-16 Washington State Middle Level Leadership Advisor of the Year Award from the Association of Washington Student Leaders.
- Eighth-grade student Sophia Demarco won the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Service Award for Washington State for environmental education and outreach efforts.