



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Environmental and Adventure School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Kirkland

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
January 2014

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2017

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2019

Sustaining Green School recognition:
Achieved for

- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Environmental and Adventure School (EAS) increased its recycling rate over several years until it reached 77% in Spring 2023, thanks to waste reduction practices as well as collection of recyclable and compostable materials and onsite composting.
- The cafeteria replaced all single-use disposable plates and utensils with compostable plates and durable, washable utensils.
- In 2014, after starting collection of lunchroom recyclables and compostables, lunchroom waste went from six 33-gallon bins to one 33-gallon bin of garbage.



Student Green Team in front of school



Student Green Team in cafeteria



Volunteer Susan Vossler and principal Victor Scarpelli receive King County Earth Hero at School award in 2014



- Student Green Team members and family volunteers monitored lunchroom sorting stations to ensure correct sorting of recyclables, compostables, and garbage. They also created posters about recycling.
- With support from custodians and family volunteers, Green Team students conducted a lunchroom waste audit and educated the student body about correct sorting through skits, posters, and the school's online newsletter.
- Green Team members collaborated with Finn Hill Middle School's leadership students to create a two-minute video about composting and recycling.
- To reduce paper use, assignments were posted online, teachers used interactive whiteboards, and an online news bulletin was used to communicate with families and students.



Green Team members in front of the EAS Green Schools banner.

- Green Team members created and placed trays in classrooms for paper used only on one side, so students could use the blank sides for notes.
- EAS started collecting used paper towels in science labs and art room, and added them to food scraps and other compostable materials. This was expanded to school-wide paper towel collection in restrooms and Commons area. Collection bins were monitored before contents were placed in outdoor compost bins for transport to a regional composting facility.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team formed an Energy Patrol to check classrooms and other spaces to turn off lights in empty rooms and check for other energy conservation practices.
- The Green Team created a large poster to display the school's Energy Conservation Pledge. Students were invited to sign the pledge.
- The team created a video on energy conservation to share at an all-school meeting.
- School computers were set to enter sleep mode automatically after about 15 minutes of not being used. Printers, projectors, smart boards, and other equipment was turned off when not in use.



- Vending machine lights had motion sensors, so the lights would turn on when the custodian walked by at night. Green Team members talked with the principal about permanently turning off vending machine lights.
- The school district lent the Green Team a light meter to find areas in the school that were over-lit. The district then removed one or two bulbs in each over-lit space to bring light levels down and conserve energy.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Green Team students delivered a kick-off presentation to all students on the first day of school about Green Schools practices at Environmental and Adventure
- Three team members mapped 34 stormwater drains on campus and nearby streets, and stenciled drains with adhesive stickers communicating that drains lead to waterways and only rainwater should go down drains.
- Students researched and shared water conservation tips, and one student researched the path of water through the campus's underground "hidden rivers" and presented a digital poster at an all-school meeting.
- Two students organized a pledge campaign to stop buying bottled water, and 82% of the school community participated in the pledge. Two students created "Don't Flush Trouble" posters and placed the laminated posters above school toilets.
- Green Team students attended district Sustainability Summits to present about EAS conservation efforts and learn about efforts in other schools and the district.
- The Green Team monitored faucets and submitted work orders to repair damaged ones. They also educated students and staff how to completely shut-off faucets.
- The school maintained a 4,000 gallon rainwater cistern to collect rainwater from the roof. The rainwater was used as the primary water source for drip-irrigation of the EAS greenhouse. School grounds were designed with drought-resistant plants, including a progressive bioswale running along the east boundary of the campus.



Students stencil storm drains





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Additional environmental education

The school's three-year multi-age curriculum was structured around environmental topics. Students participated in stewardship and service-learning opportunities, and maintained a greenhouse and multiple raised beds where native plants were grown for local habitat restoration projects.

Sustaining Green School 2021-22

- The Green Team researched and wrote monthly articles about waste reduction, energy conservation, and water conservation for the school's digital News Bulletin. The team made announcements at all-school Monday morning meetings to share recycling, energy conservation, and water conservation facts and tips.
- Green Team members created anti-littering posters and performed a skit to remind EAS students to throw snack wrappers into garbage bins.
- Seven Green Team members authored and produced a video skit about EAS waste reduction practices. The video was shown at an all-school assembly at the start of the school year. Due to an increase in contamination in recycling and compost bins, Green Team members also created and shared a skit about correct sorting.
- Two Green Team members researched best practices for energy conservation and created an Energy Conservation Pledge poster, then presented the poster and encouraged EAS students to commit to energy conservation best practices.
- The Green Team posted signs about conserving water at all school faucets, and researched and created a video skit on how to conserve water at school and home.
- The Green Team created a transportation survey to connect students and their families who were interested in carpooling to school.
- In 2021, EAS received a \$5,000 grant from the state's Waste Not Washington program for an onsite Ridan Food Composter. The grant was combined with printer cartridge/cell phone recycling revenue to buy the Composter for \$8,603.
- The Green Team monitored fellow students at lunch to help them correctly sort liquid waste, recyclable materials, organics, and garbage.



Sustaining Green School 2022-23

- With guidance from Brian Healy (lead teacher, science instructor, and Green Team advisor) the 25-member student Green Team helped sustain and expand EAS waste prevention, recycling, composting, energy and water conservation practices.
- Each May, at a school tour for incoming fifth-grade students, Green Team activities and successes were shared as a way to recruit new members for the next year.
- On the first day of school, at an all-school meeting, the Green Team invited students to join the team and presented about lunchtime sorting.
- To sustain and improve recycling and composting at EAS, the Green Team:
 - Performed a humorous lunch sorting skit with visual examples.
 - Designed and displayed posters showing what materials belong in bins for composting, recycling, leftover liquids, and garbage.
 - Enhanced efficiency of onsite composting by



buying a hand-crank grinder/ chopper - Klimrus Manual Shredder - to grind food scraps into small particles for EAS' Ridan Composter. The smaller particles produced hot compost which age into mulch in about three months.



Green Team students adding ground food scraps and sawdust to EAS' onsite Ridan Composter

- Typically in pairs of two, the Green Team completed other projects described below which were shared with all EAS students.
 - Created a food waste composting PowerPoint and instructional presentation about environmental benefits of composting, types of composting, what can be composted, and how to compost at home.
 - Created a video about composting at home, including how to sort and the benefits on at-home composting.
 - Created a new bulletin announcement about climate change, including the causes, effects, and solutions.



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- Wrote a brochure on how to sort materials at home into compostables, recyclables, garbage, and other items not collected curbside but which can be recycled in other ways.
- Prepared a Flip! Challenge and asked students to post Flips (short videos) showing steps their families took to reduce their environmental footprints.
- Created a survey about what types of transportation students used and if students and their families wanted to carpool to and from school.
- Produced a PowerPoint on effects of water pollution and how to reduce it.
- Created a video about ways to reduce energy, such as turning off lights and electronics when they are not needed.
- Made a digital Jeopardy-like game focused on environmental topics. The game became part of clan (advisory class) competitions.
- The team posted Green Notes, short environmental messages in the twice-weekly digital bulletin sent to EAS students and families.
- In the EAS Commons area, Green Team posters from previous years, including a poster about using durable water bottles, remained on display.

Awards

- Teacher and Green Team advisor Brian Healy received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015 for his work building and sustaining an effective waste reduction and recycling program at the school.
- Volunteer Susan Vossler received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2014 for her dedicated work with the student Green Team.
- EAS received awards for community stewardship from the Land Conservancy, Washington Department of Ecology, Eastside Audubon, the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and E3 Washington.