



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Fairwood Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:

September 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- From September 2011 to April 2013, Fairwood Elementary increased its recycling rate from 29% to 48%.
- Thanks to waste reduction and recycling efforts, the school switched from an 8-yard garbage dumpster to a 6-yard garbage dumpster and thus decreased cost of garbage collection.
- Students took ownership of the recycling process by emptying classroom recycling bins into larger hallway recycling containers.
- Head custodian Jessie Depew helped educate students about recycling and ensured that collection ran smoothly.
- Green Team students provided recycling tips through weekly PA announcements.
- Green Team staff and students promoted waste-free lunches on the school website, in the school newsletter, and in regular PA announcements.
- Bulk condiment dispensers were used in the lunchroom, thus avoiding the waste of individual condiment packets.
- Trays for paper used only on one side were placed in every classroom, in the school's main office, and next to all school printers.
- Announcements describing the school's waste reduction and recycling efforts were made at a PTSA meeting, at school assemblies, in parent newsletters, and in the school building newsletter.
- Starting 2011-12, the school newsletter was sent electronically to reduce paper use.
- As part of a district-wide decision to reduce waste, the school replaced plastic-wrapped utensils with loose utensils and eliminated straws in the lunchroom.



Fairwood Elementary Green Team students



Student-made Green Team badges



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In 2012-13, Fairwood created a Meaningful Jobs program which incorporated Green Team responsibilities such as emptying classroom recycling bins, monitoring lunchroom waste disposal stations, and sharing weekly announcements to educate staff and students about Green School practices.
- Students created badges to identify themselves as Green Team members.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2012-13, stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed on or near light switches in all classrooms, offices, and the cafeteria to remind staff and students to turn off lights when they leave each room.
- In 2012-13, the school created laminated signs to place on or near electronic equipment to remind staff and students to turn off computers and other equipment when not in use.
- A student Energy Conservation Patrol reminded each class about ways to conserve energy. In most classrooms, Energy Conservation Patrol students closed blinds at the end of the day and turned off electronics after use. Teachers were encouraged to use available natural lighting when possible
- Students and staff were encouraged regularly to dress appropriately for the season so they would be comfortable with the standard thermostat settings.
- To conserve energy, incandescent lights were replaced with Energy Star fluorescent bulbs or tubes, and lighting controls were programmed in most spaces.