



French Immersion School of Washington

School district: Private

School location: Bellevue

Began participating in Green Schools Program: December 2020

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2022

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2023

Student Green Team recognition: Received in June 2022 and June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- To reduce wasted food, messages such as "Take or bring only what you will eat" and "If you bring lunch from home, take leftovers home" were shared with students.
- The school asked families to pack lunches from home in reusable containers.
- Plastic utensils were replaced with compostable utensils.
- In February 2022, the school started using an indoor composter to compost food waste. The resulting compost was used to nourish the school garden soil.
- 33 fourth- and fifth-grade students formed a Green Team, and wrote a Green Charter signed by all students.
- The Green Team joined a weekly staff meeting to inform staff about the Green Schools Program and the Green Charter, and conducted a training for teachers about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The school developed a website page to share Green Team actions, and created a Green Schools section in its weekly newsletter.
- The Green Team created 3-dimensional posters with actual materials glued to them to show what materials can be placed in recycling and composting bins.
- To reduce paper use, classroom document cameras were used instead of printed copies. Paper reuse trays were placed in each classroom and office to encourage use of the blank sides of paper only printed on one side.
- Email was used for staff and parent newsletters, bulletins, and memos.



- The school set up and promoted a reuse area for used office supplies.
- Lessons about waste reduction and recycling were included in different subject areas in each grade.
- A pesticide-free school garden was established, using native plants and non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and herbicides. The garden was used as a teaching tool to promote student's health and wellness.
- The school installed automated dispensing equipment in custodial areas to ensure safe dilution of cleaning products. All cleaning products were labeled and stored to keep them out of reach of children and to keep incompatible chemicals (e.g., bleach and ammonia) separate. EPA registered disinfectants were used according to instructions, and disinfectants were only used in high-risk areas.
- To foster healthy choices, nutrition and cooking classes as well as physical education classes and after-school sports were offered. The school schedule allowed students to spend an average of at least 90 minutes per week in school-supervised physical education, and at least 30% of recesses were outdoors.
- The school avoided purchase of liquid mercury, mercury compounds, mercury thermometers, mercury novelty items such as glazes and jewelry, and mercury blood pressure cuffs -- and instead replaced those with non-mercury products.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school maintained its waste reduction and recycling practices, and each room continued to have a recycling bin, a food scraps bin, and a garbage bin with a sign showing what materials can be placed in each bin.
- To improve those practices, a checklist was distributed to all classes at the start of the school year.
- Families were encouraged to pack reusable water bottles, utensils, and cloth napkins with their children's lunches.
- The school installed three water bottle filling stations to make it easier for students to refill their reusable water bottles.
- With help from Puget Sound Energy, the school changed all bulbs to LED.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The student Green Team consisted of one or two students from each first to fifth-grade class, and held Green Council meetings.
- The team organized an energy audit which was conducted in every room. Based on audit results, the team created posters with energy conservation tips and signs to remind students and staff about energy conservation practices.
- All classes participated in an energy conservation pledge, and pledges were displayed on posters by class.
- Families were encouraged to carpool to and from school when possible.
- The school newsletter included Green Team updates and school conservation practices, and a new “green” newsletter was created for staff focused on conservation practices and Green Team actions