



Glenridge Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: August 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in January 2013

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

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

Sustaining Green School 2021-2022: Achieved in June 2022

Sustaining Green School 2022-2023: Achieved in June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Glenridge Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 48%.
- Head custodian Lisa Garrett supervised collection of recyclable materials.
- Students assisted Garrett by collecting recyclable materials from classrooms and placing them in hallway recycling bins.
- School staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins.
- To reduce paper use, the copy room provided a “Good On One Side” paper reuse box for paper mis-printed on one side.
- As part of a district initiative to reduce cafeteria waste, straws were eliminated and plastic-wrapped utensils were replaced with loose utensils in sanitary dispensers.
- In 2011-12, a student Green Team monitored recycling stations in the lunchroom.
- Glenridge collected Capri-Sun juice pouches to send to TerraCycle for the company’s recycling program.
- Glenridge promoted waste reduction and recycling practices during lunchtime announcements.
- Staff room recycling increased after recycling containers and signs were added to the staff room in 2012.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Green Team students placed energy conservation signs from the Green Schools Program on all light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Occupancy sensors were installed on lights in frequently used rooms.
- Kent School District's software program shut down non-administrator computers automatically each evening.
- The school's thermostats were set between 68 and 70 degrees. Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- To conserve energy, principal Scott Abernathy and district staff shared seasonal reminders to keep doors and windows closed when heating or cooling was on.
- The school promoted energy conservation tips on the school's website.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The school website shared water conservation information and tips.
- During times of drought, outdoor watering was limited to the school garden.
- To conserve water, the school installed low-flow toilets and faucets, as well as motion sensors on faucets.
- In dry seasons, school community members monitored grounds for wet spots which may indicate water leaks, and reported findings to maintenance team.
- During an all-school assembly, students and staff were asked not to pour fats, oils, or grease down school or home sink drains because that can clog drains and cause buildup that leads to inefficient water use.

Sustaining Green School – 2021-2022

- The 70-member student Green Team helped educate their classmates through announcements and presentations about how they can reduce waste, electricity use, and water use.



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- Green Team students submitted an application to volunteer in the lunchroom, and then were trained in groups and individually to help monitor lunchroom containers to ensure correct sorting of milk cartons and other recyclable materials. Most Green Team members participated in prior years or remembered seeing the Green Team helping in the lunchroom, and students were excited about volunteering.
- Tableside recycling service was added to the lunch room, with Green Team students taking a container past all tables before the main cleanup begins, so students placed their empty milk cartons and other recyclable materials into the container when they finished their milk. The recycling rate increased when students were given access to recycling without leaving their seats.
- School offices and copy room collected recyclable paper, and a double-sided copying policy was followed.
- The district saved water by turning off sprinklers and only hand-watering plants that needed to be watered.
- The school newsletter included a section about Green Team accomplishments.

Sustaining Green School – 2022-2023

- Third-grade students were invited to join the team after a presentation was made to each third-grade classroom.
- The 62-member Glenridge Green Team with students from grades 3-6 attended a training session before being scheduled to volunteer during lunchtime to help fellow students correctly sort recyclable materials from garbage.
- Green Team students supported recycling practices in classrooms by creating and hanging posters with recycling information.
- During some live-streamed school announcements, student Green Team members shared slides about recycling.
- To increase recycling, Green Team students brought to each lunch table a mobile station with a leftover liquids bin and recycling bin.
- To reduce wasted food, the cafeteria set up a place for students to return unopened, packaged food and beverage items from the school lunch program so other students could help themselves if they wanted more food.



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- Staff were reminded to unplug items and turn off lights before leaving, especially before a long school break. Staff also were encouraged to report leaky faucets and any heating system anomalies so they could be corrected in a timely manner.
- Students and staff were encouraged to bring and use durable water bottles.
- In the front foyer, the Green Schools recognition banner was on display for all students, staff, and community members to see.

Environmental education

- Green Team Garden Crew members met on Earth Day and Arbor Day to work on the school's perennial and annual edible garden.
- Green Team Art Crew members created waste reduction and recycling, energy conservation, and water conservation posters to display throughout the school during Earth Week.
- Members of the Green Team Assembly Crew presented information on waste reduction and recycling, energy conservation, and water conservation during the school's "Expect the Best: Earth Day" assembly in 2014.