

Green River Montessori School

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in November 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in July 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- From 2009 to 2010, the school's recycling rate increased from 43% to 62%.
- Food scraps and yard waste were composted off-site at a local farm.
- Students, faculty and administrative staff were introduced to the school's recycling and waste reduction policies, which were reinforced daily throughout the school.
- Recycling and waste reduction news was shared in the monthly newsletter sent to students, faculty, staff, and parents. Administrative staff and classroom teachers guided waste reduction and recycling practices.
- In 2010, the school started a worm bin for vegetable and fruit scraps.
- Recycling bins were placed in every classroom, office and break room, and the kitchen. Recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed on each recycling bin.
- All recycling bins were placed next to garbage cans to increase visibility and convenience.
- The school formed a Green Schools Team of staff, students, and parent volunteers.
- With help from the Green Schools Program, the team assessed what items in its garbage could be reduced, reused, and recycled.



A King County Green Team specialist shows Green River students their new worm bin.



- To reduce paper use, teachers and staff limited use of handouts and made double-sided copies. The lunch menu was posted online and copies were only printed upon request.
- Office staff reduced excess newspaper deliveries and requested removal from vendor mail lists.
- The school saved and reused durable supplies.
- Maintenance staff mulched grass clippings into the lawn.
- In 2010, students participated in a King County Green Team worm bin workshop.
- The school promoted waste free lunches on Mondays and Fridays when students brought lunches from home. On those days, food scraps from each child's lunch were sent home so parents/guardians would know what their children had eaten that day and could make adjustments in future lunches.
- Students used durable trays and utensils during lunch.
- In 2011, the school began to use durable cups for elementary school students. Milk and Juice were served in bulk dispensers. The school eliminated disposable parchment paper place settings during lunch and snack time.
- Elementary school students engaged in weekly field trips to the Auburn School District's garden. The students learned about sustainability, organic gardening, composting, biology, nutrition, and cooking.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students posted signs near light switches and electric equipment to remind students and staff to turn off lights, computers, and equipment when not in use.
- A student Energy Conservation Patrol turned off lights and shut down computers in the classrooms at the end of each day.
- The curriculum included learning about resource conservation and exploring how turning of lights impacts the environment.
- Monthly staff meetings and daily classroom reminders included energy conservation tips and practices.



King County



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Staff, students and parents were informed about the school's energy use during Parent Guild Meetings throughout the school year.
- To conserve energy, staff used task lighting or daylight when possible.
- After-school activities were consolidated in common areas to reduce electricity and heating and cooling needs in unoccupied areas.
- The school purchased energy efficient equipment.