

## Hazelwood Elementary School

**School district:** Auburn

**School location:** Auburn

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2015

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2016

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Hazelwood reduced waste and improved recycling, resulting in a decrease in the sizes of the outdoor garbage and compostable materials containers.
- At the start of the school year, announcements were made about waste reduction and recycling practices. New students were taught how to sort, and Kindergarten teachers took students to visit the sorting station to learn how it works.
- Staff members and students volunteered to monitor sorting practices throughout the year.
- A Girl Scouts Troop made up of former Hazelwood students raised funds for and donated a new water bottle refilling station to the school – and then students and staff were encouraged to use their durable water bottles instead of buying single-use plastic bottles.
- Teacher Carol Scofield led a Green Team of third-grade students. After its first meeting, Green Team members shared information about waste reduction and recycling with their classmates.
- The Green Team conducted lessons for teachers on "What can be recycled?" and how to reduce use of electricity in the classroom.
- For Earth Day, the Green Team created posters about waste reduction which were hung throughout the school.
- The Green Team conducted a waste audit to identify what recyclable and compostable materials were being placed in garbage bins, and what garbage items were being incorrectly placed in recycling and food scrap bins.



# Success Story

- Carol Scofield encouraged other teachers to set up simple waste reduction practices such as GOOS (Good-On-One-Side) drawers for paper only used on one side. Many teachers followed this suggestion.
- First- and second-grade classes used whiteboards instead of paper for math problems, and teachers posted assignments and announcements on websites instead of using paper.
- To reduce wasted food, a food share table was set up in the cafeteria so students could place unwanted, packaged foods from the school lunch program and other students could take those items.
- The kitchen composted leftover food scraps from lunch.
- In 2015-16, the school started to use durable trays and eliminated plastic-wrapped utensils. Instead, single utensils were available in sanitary dispensers.