



## Highland Middle School

**School District:** Bellevue

**School Location:** Bellevue

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
September 2008

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**

Achieved in June 2009

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**

Achieved in June 2010

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:**

Achieved in April 2011



Highland Middle School kicks off improved lunchroom recycling, with containers conveniently located near lunch tables.

## Waste reduction and recycling

- Highland maintained a recycling rate of 50%.
- City of Bellevue partnered with the Green Schools Program to assist Bellevue schools with recycling improvements.
- In the 2008-09 school year, Highland Middle School increased its recycling rate from 42% to 50%. In its cafeteria, the school began to recycle milk cartons, bottles and cans, and switched from individual servings to bulk condiments, reducing garbage in the cafeteria by more than 50 percent.
- Recycling containers are in classrooms, offices and the cafeteria. A sticker listing what can and can't be recycled is on each recycling container.
- In 2009-10, to save garbage Dumpster space, students began to stack their empty trays at the end of each lunch period.
- The Associated Student Body (ASB) promoted recycling through a "Green Week." The student group created table toppers for lunch recycling kick-off day, made posters to promote recycling, wore green on kick-off day, and shared recycling facts during morning announcements.



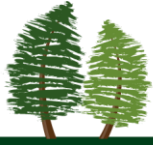
- ASB students monitored recycling containers for the first two weeks to ensure that the correct items were recycled.
- During the 2008-09 school year, paper use was monitored and it was determined that the school uses 4,500 sheets of paper per day. The school reduced paper use by e-mailing staff and parent newsletters instead of printing them and by promoting the following:
  - Double sided photocopying and printing.
  - E-mail communication.
  - Use of smart boards and flash drives.
  - A “Paper Free Friday.”
  - A plan to reduce paper use for individualized education plans.
- During 2010-11, students promoted recycling and waste reduction during a “Green Week” at school.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- “Turn lights out” stickers were placed on light switches throughout the school.
- To encourage energy conservation practices, announcements were made at staff meetings and emails were sent to all staff.

## Environmental education

- Conservation facts and tips were included in school announcements.
- All seventh grade students designed an ecological cookie package and wrote a persuasive letter to a cookie company urging the company to adopt their new cookie package design based on reduced surface area for the same volume.
- All seventh grade math grade math students determined their ecological footprint on [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) external link and calculated the amount of garbage Dumpster volume saved when students stack their empty trays at the end of a lunch period.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

---

## **Water Conservation (Level Three)**

- Students placed “turn water off” stickers by sinks throughout the school.
- Students put up posters throughout the school to promote water conservation.
- The green team submitted morning announcements about water conservation to be read to the entire school.
- PTSA emailed water conservation “Tips at Home” to all families.
- Students pledged to conserve water through a home water reduction contest. Students logged water use at the beginning of the week and tried to reduce their water use during the week. Highland set a goal for students to try to reduce water by 1,000 gallons per week at home.