



Horace Mann Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Redmond

Began participating in Green Schools Program: March 2019

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

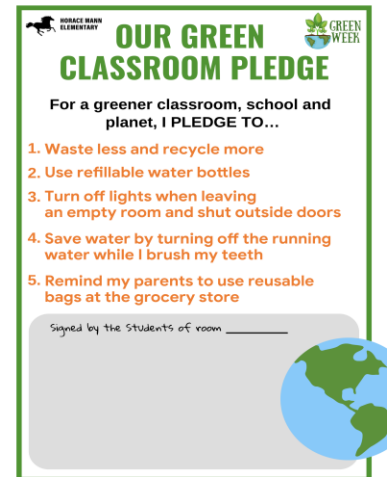
Achieved in May 2019

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in December 2020

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in June 2023



Green Classroom Pledge 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a recycling rate of 47%, thanks to waste prevention and recycling practices.
- Durable trays and utensils were used in the cafeteria, instead of disposable, single-use items.
- On classroom pledge posters, classes pledged to reduce waste and recycle.
- The school initiated a campaign to reduce single-use plastics. Students were given a calendar with one idea per day on how to reduce plastic use.
- The school made regular PA announcements about reducing waste and recycling.
- Classrooms collected old Crayola markers to be recycled through a Crayola recycling program.
- On the last day of the school year, the school conducted a zero-waste locker cleanout where students could help themselves to items unwanted by fellow students and where recyclable items were placed in recycling bins.
- In the 2019-20 school year, bins to collect compostable materials were added to the staff member lounge.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school maintained its waste reduction and recycling practices while learning about energy conservation. Cafeteria staff were trained in September 2019 about lunchroom sorting of recyclable materials, and they assisted students to sort correctly into recycling and garbage bins.
- Green Team participants reviewed the Green Schools Program Energy Conservation Best Practices Guide to learn about energy conservation strategies.
- The school set a goal of reducing energy use by 4%.
- Throughout the 2019-20 school year, in the school newsletter and social media, Green Team students shared messages about energy conservation as well as recycling and reducing waste.
- Green Team students created posters for the school's front doors to remind the community to keep heat in by closing doors and to dress for the weather. Images of the posters were shared in the monthly newsletter and social media posts.
- In January 2020, students completed Youth Lobby Day letters which were delivered in person and online to state legislators.
- For Earth Day 2020, the Green Team posted information on social media about the school energy conservation, waste reduction, and recycling efforts.
- At a January 2020 staff meeting, staff reviewed a Power Pledge document on ways to conserve energy. Teachers were encouraged to turn off smart boards, projectors, and document cameras when not in use. Interactive whiteboards were installed, and reminders were shared at staff meetings on how to turn off motion sensors to conserve energy.
- Staff and students accessed data about Horace Mann's energy use on the district's energy dashboard. The school district regularly reviewed Puget Sound Energy's smart meter energy data for each school.
- District software automatically shut down computers, printers entered sleep mode when not in use, and vending machine timers prevented motion activation of the machine lights, while integrated sensors were installed on new vending machines.



Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The school continued to collect recyclable materials as well as food scraps and other compostable materials, while learning about water conservation.
- Teachers shared water conservation information in their classrooms, and students pledged to conserve water. In exchange for using stormwater curriculum approved by King County, stormwater fees were waived.
- With guidance from Horace Mann's parent sustainability chair Rachel Moloy, the student Green Team of 30 students in grades 4 and 5 helped the school maintain its waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation practices.
- The Green Team tested water in a local creek with in-class testing strips and discussed results, and shared Adopt-a-Drain information in the school newsletter and social media. A protected wetland on campus was used for student observation and learning. Team members took home flower seeds for spring planting, and learned about soil health, plant growth, and water conservation.
- Near restroom and art room sinks, the team posted signs from the Green Schools Program about conserving water near.
- The team created a narrated broadcast on pollution, climate change, and conservation practices to share on Flipbook recording broadcasts in all classes: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lp30Z4isscFeDN4_uno6m0LpPaIJ81vs.
- A team letter to the school board noted the urgency of acting on climate change, and requested a district-wide sustainability plan. The team met with school board members to request a plan to reach net zero emissions in the district.
- The week before Earth Day, the team led a campaign about biking and walking to school, conserving energy and water, and reducing waste. A library display case designed for Earth Week included book suggestions, conservation tips, and student art made from reused materials. At a Friday Art Night, the student art work was shown. See <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4LBtWrWLYaQtpZu4A>.
- The custodial staff turned off hot water pumps before extended school breaks, and the district installed low flow faucets.