



Interlake High 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 May 2010

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in April 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Interlake High School increased its recycling rate from 24% to 42%.
- Bins for recyclable materials were placed in all classrooms, the cafeteria and offices, and stickers were placed on each recycling bin to show what can be recycled.
- The City of Bellevue partnered with the Green Schools Program to assist Bellevue schools with recycling.
- In 2008-09, the school received a grant to buy compostable lunch trays for a one-week food scrap/food soiled paper collection pilot. Lunch waste was weighed to assess the impact of food scrap recycling.
- The school held a Green Week to promote environmental awareness. Activities included morning announcements about reducing waste and recycling, trash pickup after school, a bike to school day, and a trivia game about resource conservation. The Green Team also created a presentation for a staff meeting and created an environmental display case.
- To reduce paper use, the school stated a double-sided copy policy, began using e-mail communication as much as possible, and encouraged use of a smaller font size or half sheets whenever practical.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- From September through December 2010, Interlake High reduced energy use by almost 11 percent due to energy conservation practices.
- The school held an “Energy Week” focused on reducing energy use and educating students about energy conservation.
- Students made frequent morning announcements about energy conservation.
- Students conducted energy patrols to ensure lights were turned off in unoccupied rooms, and computers and other equipment were turned off after use.
- Student volunteers placed “turn lights off” stickers from the Green Schools Program on all classroom light switches.
- The school community was encouraged to use energy-efficient transportation, such as the school bus, public transportation, and carpooling, both to and from school.
- Students calculated their carbon footprints.
- The school used its solar-powered hot dog stand during school football games.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation lessons were included in some class lessons, and the Green Team made water conservation announcements every Monday.
- Students placed posters about water conservation in hallways and classrooms, and posted “turn water off” stickers from the Green Schools Program next to sinks.
- Students helped plant a certified school yard habitat. The Green Team worked with Friends of the Cedar River Watershed to install a rain garden in spring 2010, and the team maintained the rain garden.
- The Green Team worked with Sherwood Forest Middle School to stencil storm drains, and participated in a YMCA Earth Service Corps club in the Chinook Bend stream restoration project in Carnation.
- The school held a movie event for local middle and high school students and broadcast the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed’s report in conjunction with City of Bellevue, Cascade Water Alliance, and Friends of the Cedar River Watershed.



Other environmental education

- Green Team students volunteered for Mountains to Sound Greenway, and helped lead several tree planting events and organized carpooling to each event.
- Students planted trees and created a garden on the school campus.
- Nature Vision presented “Be the Solution” workshops to five eleventh- and twelfth-grade classes, as well as one ninth-grade class.
- Green Team members maintained a Facebook page to educate students about environmental issues, created a PowerPoint presentation about the school’s conservation accomplishments, and made posters to invite fellow students to meetings and events.
- The Green Team held a fundraising event to help pay for environmental projects.

Litter Reduction

- The school established an anti-litter policy.
- To reduce litter on campus, morning announcements about litter reduction were made, and students picked up litter at work parties.
- Multiple litter patrol events were held after school.