



International Community School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Kirkland

Began participating in Green Schools Program: September 2015

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- International Community School achieved a 61% recycling rate.
- During orientation, the school taught incoming students how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- Throughout the school year, PA and video announcements were made to encourage waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The Green Team worked with custodial staff, conducted waste audits, and created an instructional video and signs about sorting recyclable and compostable materials.
- The Green Team introduced composting collection to the school in April 2015.
- The waste audit prior to compost collection showed that 80 percent by weight of the school's garbage was compostable. Since the program was established, nearly all food waste is diverted to compostable material bins.
- The Green Team led a school-wide assembly about environmental sustainability in which they performed a skit and held a quiz show about recycling and composting.
- The school trained students to monitor recycling and compost bins during lunch, and to teach fellow students how to sort.



Teacher and Green Team students received a King County Earth Heroes at School award, spring 2016.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The school held a Tupperware Tuesday during Earth Week to reduce the number of compostable plates being used. Students were encouraged to bring lunches from home in reusable containers.
- At the start of the 2018-19 school year, school announcements reminded students and staff how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- In 2018-19, the school signed up with Crayola ColorCycle program to collect and ship used markers to Crayola for recycling. The Green Team labeled and distributed collection boxes to classrooms.
- Classrooms set up reusable paper boxes for paper used only on one side, so students could use the blank sides.
- Reusable water bottles were sold throughout 2018-19 to encourage students to carry and refill water bottles instead of buying single-use plastic water bottles.
- In March 2019, Green Team members retaught sixth-grade students how to correctly sort garbage and recyclable and compostable materials.
- In 2019 during Green Week, the week after Earth Day, the Green Team used a video to promote recycling and composting. The school dedicated a day to promoting reuse and a tote-your-trash day to increase awareness about personal trash.



International Community students planted trees on school grounds

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- ASB officers shared “green facts of the week,” including information about waste reduction, recycling, energy use, and energy conservation.
- In both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, International Community School engaged students in a classroom Energy Conservation Pledge.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Sixth-grade students and the Green Team completed a tree planting service project on the east side of the school to provide shade cover around the classrooms and the afternoon student pick-up lines.
- As part of the science curriculum, students designed climate change solution impact projects.
- Signs were posted in workrooms to encourage students and staff to turn off lights when not in use. In 2018-19, the custodians participated in a staff energy conservation pledge and made sure lights were turned off at the end of each day.
- To conserve energy, Green Team students encouraged staff to comply with the district's "no personal appliances" policy.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season, and the thermostats were set at or below 68 degrees.

Other conservation practices

In 2018-19, a group of students created [BEEducated](#), an educational resource to help save the declining bee population. Students started a sustainable pollinator garden in a local Sammamish park, compiled a resource kit to help other schools plant pollinator gardens, and assisted schools in their district and Renton School District to establish pollinator gardens. The group collaborated with MIT developers on an app to raise awareness about the plight of bees.