

International School

School district: Bellevue

School location: Bellevue

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2010

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in April 2012



Students conduct garbage audit at International School

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- In 2010-11, through increased recycling and waste reduction, the school increased its recycling rate from 40% to 50%, and reduced weekly garbage volume from 18 cubic yards to 12 cubic yards.
- Students created “recycling” and “trash” posters for the cafeteria, handouts to help students learn what can and can’t be recycled, and signs to raise awareness about reducing waste and recycling.
- Student volunteers monitored the cafeteria recycling program, reminding students about what can and can’t be recycled.
- The school held a “Green Week” that included posters and morning announcements to promote recycling and provide recycling facts.



Materials found and sorted in garbage audit



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Students toured the Allied Waste recycling facility to find out how recyclable materials are sorted by the company that provides recycling collection service for the school.
- Student volunteers helped launch Medina Elementary School's food scrap recycling program, assisted at elementary school science fairs to raise awareness about stream pollution, and volunteered at an Arbor Day "Zero Waste" station.
- Tips about recycling were shared on the school's daily news broadcast.
- Trivia games, presentations and a relay game were used to educate students about recycling and waste reduction.
- All classrooms, offices and the cafeteria have recycling containers.
- During a two-day pilot in April 2010, the school used compostable trays and utensils and then collected food scrap/food soiled paper to be composted.
- Students conducted two garbage audits.
- The school received assistance from the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County and implemented their recommendations in its art room and laboratory.
- Staff applied for grants to help offset the cost of compostable trays, and the Green Team held a sweatshirt fundraiser to raise money for compostable trays.
- The Green Team collected and donated gently used clothing to Goodwill.
- Students held drives to recycle batteries, ink cartridges, and cell phones.
- Students created a PowerPoint to teach students and staff how to properly sort their lunch waste and stack trays.
- Students monitoring school lunches created a location in the cafeteria where classmates finishing their lunches could sort materials and stack trays.
- During 2011-12, the school increased its recycling rate to 60 percent by reducing waste and continuing to collect recyclable and compostable materials. Students stacked their lunch trays to reduce garbage volume in the dumpster and funds were raised to buy compostable trays for the 2012-13 school year.



King County Green Schools Program

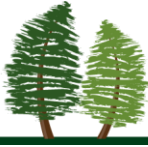
Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- A PowerPoint presentation was played in first period to help educate students about how to sort their lunch into food waste, leftover liquids, recyclable materials, garbage, and tray stacking.
- Posters and morning announcements reminded students how and what to sort at lunch.
- Students monitored lunch stations to help their fellow students sort leftover liquids, recyclable materials, and garbage into the correct containers.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school presented its energy use data at a staff meeting along with a list of suggestions to reduce energy use. Staff members received follow up emails reminding them to reduce energy use.
- Students audited the carbon emissions of 16 classrooms and submitted suggestions for reducing carbon emissions for each classroom.
- Students and staff calculated their carbon footprints.
- From September through December 2010-11, International School reduced energy use by 17 percent due to energy conservation practices and reduced heating temperature requirements from the school district.
- Tips about reducing energy use were shared on the school's daily news broadcast.
- The green team shared energy conservation tips during morning announcements and in monthly staff meetings.
- Students placed energy conservation labels near all light switches and near electrical equipment in the school.
- Students calculated their carbon footprints to evaluate their energy use.
- Tenth-grade students participated in the "Be the Solution" workshop from Nature Vision. Students created a PowerPoint presentation to promote using power strips and held a drive to collect power strips for classroom use because all equipment plugged into one power strip can easily be turned off.
- The Green Team shared the school's annual energy use with staff.
- School staff added energy saving tips to the school's website.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Classes participated in the “Powerful Choices” program which includes energy and water conservation lessons.
- The lead custodian adjusted all faucets to decrease water waste.
- On Water Conservation Wednesdays, the school made weekly morning announcements consisting of water conservation tips and facts.
- To help reduce water consumption, posters and stickers were placed near faucets in classrooms, bathrooms, and other sinks throughout the school.
- The school held a pledge campaign to stop buying bottled water and instead choose durable, reusable water bottles.
- Students created a water conservation video with information on why it is important to conserve water, along with tips on how to conserve water.