



Issaquah High School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Issaquah

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School: Achieved for

- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2022-23



Earth Hero at School Award
Student Kate Brunette received the King County award in April 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- When it joined the King County Green Schools Program, the school had a recycling rate of 16%, and increased its rate to 72% by starting a school-wide program to collect recyclable materials in classrooms, offices, hallways, and lunchroom as well as collection of compostable materials in the lunchroom.
- Recycling increases resulted in doubling outdoor recycling dumpster pick-ups and decreasing garbage pick-ups.
- Associated Student Body (ASB) and Leadership class members distributed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled to all classrooms. Recycling bins with signs were placed next to all garbage cans to encourage recycling.



- Students shared facts about recycling and the environmental impact of waste through morning announcements and posters hung throughout the hallways.
- In 2013-14, students participated in a school-wide lunchtime recycling contest.
- In April 2015, the school placed first in a district-wide waste-free Wednesday challenge in which students generated less than 1 ounce of waste per student.
- In 2014-15, student and staff leaders partnered with Cedar Grove Composting, Issaquah School District, and King County Green Schools Program to pilot collection of restroom paper towels.
- To encourage reduction of paper towel use, student leaders placed conservation signs on each school paper towel dispenser.
- With help from City of Issaquah and King County Green Schools Program, the school launched a program to collect compostable materials. ASB and Leadership classes monitored lunchroom recycling stations for the first two weeks of the program and educated students about what items can be collected for composting.
- Students created an educational video about composting. The video aired during morning announcements. Students laminated fliers about compostable materials and posted them on all school compost bins.
- Information about how to sort compostable and recyclable materials was shared during an Earth Day lunch competition.
- The school collected printer cartridges for recycling.
- Teachers reduced paper use by using online drop-boxes for homework.
- Students participated in a social media photo contest to spread environmental awareness. Their artwork was displayed around the school.
- Student Sustainability Ambassadors hosted a district Green Team Summit in October 2014 and an Issaquah Community Sustainability Summit in April 2015.
- The leadership class used reusable items to decorate for the Winterfest celebration,

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students created a classroom conservation pledge to encourage students and staff to turn off lights and shut down computers when not in use, and to close blinds at the end of every day, and open them during classes to make use of natural light.
- Energy conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.



- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting thermostat settings.
- Monthly emails with the school's energy use and energy conservation tips were sent to the school community.
- In 2013-14, students participated in a Clear the Lot campaign that rewarded students for walking, biking or carpooling to school.
- Assistant principal Adam Desautels worked with Chris Bruno, resource conservation manager of the district, to install LED lighting where possible.
- Lighting was set to turn off in unused school spaces.
- Using district-wide software, non-administrator computers were shut down automatically each evening to conserve energy.
- The school conducted a carpool survey, promoted a Carpool to School day, and encouraged carpooling in school video announcements.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- AP Environmental Science students learned about connections between water use and climate change, where the school's drinking water goes after entering the drain, water availability and cleanliness, and waterborne illnesses.
- AP Biology students learned about the human impacts on climate change and the consequences of water use.
- Marine Biology students learned about climate change effects on water quality.
- Biology classes filled vials with water from a natural body of water and tested turbidity, pH levels, and pollution.
- Global Studies classes learned about human interaction with water and water quality in different parts of the world.
- The school added a greenhouse in the school garden.
- Rain gardens were planted in the parking lot of the new building to reduce runoff from heavy rains or storm water. This allowed surface water to filter through the plants before entering the drainage system via the concrete.
- The Green Team posted notices about water conservation in all restroom stalls to educate students on how to conserve water.
- Faucets were set to automatically shut off when not in use.



- Custodians cleaned school floors with floor cleaning machines that used up to 50 percent less water than mopping.
- Students and staff were reminded of the school's dual-flush low-flow toilets and how to properly use them to reduce water use.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Issaquah High School sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Staff and students promoted practices to reduce paper use. The student Green Team gave a presentation at a staff meeting on Issaquah High's paper use compared to other Issaquah schools, how the school ran out of paper in 2014-15 before it was time to order more, and what staff can do to reduce paper use.
- As of February 2016, the school had not run out of paper. Results of the school's paper reduction campaign were shared in announcements and at additional staff meetings.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Green Team students collected school commuter information and promoted carpooling to students and families through school newsletters.
- Students tracked data on parked cars and SOV drop-offs.
- The school posted no-idling in the parking lot in fall 2016 and the entire district installed signs in spring 2017.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Students helped pick up litter, remove invasive species around Lake Sammamish State Park, and plant trees behind the YMCA in Sammamish as part of community service projects sponsored by the National Honor Society.
- In May 2018, the school promoted Bike to School month and held a school beautification day.



Sustaining Green school 2018-19

- Student Green Team members collected 1,000 signatures on a petition to request a water bottle refilling station for their school to reduce single-use plastic bottles. The water bottle refilling station was installed in January 2019.
- The leadership class used reusable items to create decorations for dances and other school events.
- In February 2019, the Green Team hosted a Green Schools booth at Issaquah School District's STEMposium.
- The school collected used markers for Crayola's ColorCycle marker recycling program.
- The school continued to collect paper towels in restrooms for composting at a regional composting facility.

Sustaining Green School 2022-23

- The student Eco Club regularly had 14-15 weekly participants, with other students dropping-in to participate in special events such as for Earth Week. Students were invited to join during the annual club fair and at meetings for new students and their families.
- Eco Club worked with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander student clubs to create posters about famous environmentalists that share those heritages.
- The club invited a guest speaker from the Bellevue organization 300 Trees to learn about its efforts.
- Earth Week events included a sustainability pledge drive, flower pot painting, and bring-your-own-cup for boba tea. The Eco Club promoted these events on its ASB Instagram page, and also partnered with neighboring Issaquah Middle School to host the events.
- Multiple campus clean-up events were held, including one during Earth Week. The club partnered with the graphic design class to create posters to discourage littering and promote correct sorting of trash, recyclable materials, and compostable materials. Similar posters were created at Issaquah Middle School.
- The club worked with the school's video production class to create a weekly news announcement show to educate students about sustainable practices, particularly around waste disposal and global environmental problems.



- The club used iVision and morning announcements as well as video monitor displays throughout campus to share events and promote sustainable practices.
- The club maintained a school garden for vegetables, herbs, and ornamental flowers. The garden used a drip soaker irrigation system to save water.
- School restroom signs explained how dual-flush toilets work to conserve water.
- Turn Off Lights stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed on classroom light switches, and teachers were encouraged to make sure LCD projectors and other electronics were turned off before leaving for the day.
- A Youth Environmental Service Corps (YESC) representative supported the student team by participating in many of their weekly meetings.

Award

Student Kate Brunette received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in spring 2011 for leading Issaquah High's recycling and composting programs.