



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Issaquah Valley Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Issaquah

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:

From 2004-07, then again in 2010-11

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in April 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Issaquah Valley increased its recycling rate from 44% to 54% during the 2010-11 school year.
- Students and staff are dedicated to recycling throughout the school, a result of the school's longstanding effort to actively promote sustainability and environmental awareness.
- In 2007, the school started to collect food scraps and other compostable materials which were transported to Cedar Grove Composting, a regional composting facility.
- In 2008, Issaquah School District replaced disposable Styrofoam trays with durable, reusable trays.
- On indoor recycling bins throughout the school, students placed stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled.
- A waste-free lunch day was held to promote reusable containers, and finishing lunch and milk. As a result, they



To reduce waste, students pack their lunches in durable, reusable containers.



Student-created poster encourages students to drink their milk before recycling the milk container.



The school's 475 students generated only seven gallons of garbage on Waste Free lunch day.



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reduced lunch garbage weight by 23 pounds per day, or the equivalent of 2 tons per year. Garbage volume was reduced by more than 30 gallons per day or 30 cubic yards per year.

- On the waste-free lunch day, during three lunch periods, the school's 475 students created a total of only seven gallons of garbage.
- In 2010-11, City of Issaquah helped pilot eco-leaders, an environmental initiative for fifth-grade leaders. Four times that year, fifth-grade students discussed environmental topics with all classes in the school. Topics included recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Fifth-grade students made presentations and posters for classrooms, led morning announcements, created worm bins for classrooms, created a video, and helped boost recycling in the staff room.



Recycling and food scrap containers are ready for students to sort recyclable and compostable materials.

Award

Lead custodian Dusty Duke received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2005 for his environmental stewardship and leadership at Issaquah Valley Elementary.