



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Kentlake High School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: February 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Kentlake High School reached and maintained a 60% recycling rate.
- Green Team students promoted waste-free lunches, reminding students to only take what they will eat and to eat what they take.
- As part of a district-wide decision to reduce waste, the school replaced plastic-wrapped utensils with loose utensils and also eliminated straws in the lunchroom.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were placed in the lunchroom for empty milk cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans, and stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled were placed on all school recycling bins.
- Green Team students presented a skit during lunch to teach fellow students what can and can't be recycled. Staff lunchroom monitors educated and encouraged students to recycle their empty milk cartons, bottles, and cans.
- To conserve paper, reuse trays for paper only used on one-side were placed in each classroom. Some teachers and students used the back sides of the paper. Paper also was rationed to 500 copies per teacher per month.
- To promote waste reduction and recycling efforts, Green Team students and staff presented recycling tips in PA announcements, school newsletters, on a school bulletin board, and on posters displayed in the lunchroom.
- Head custodian Gary Newsom mentored the student Green Team and used teachable moments to remind students about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Health classes emptied classroom recycling bins weekly.



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- Art teacher Eric Wall reduced environmental impacts of art classes in the following ways.
 - Between 150 and 200 pounds of clay per week were recycled and reused. Dried-out clay, including scraps from classroom floors, were placed in barrels of water to rehydrate, then placed on plaster tables until dry enough to reuse.
 - The kiln was only fired when completely full, and smaller pots were placed inside larger pots to use the kiln space efficiently.
 - Butcher paper to absorb moisture from clay projects was dried out and reused.
 - Glazes whose color were not identifiable were added to a bucket labeled “mystery.” Students enjoyed using the mystery bucket glazes because the outcome was a surprise.
 - Excess school newspapers were given to ceramics classes for art projects.