

## Khalsa Gurmat School

**School district:** Private

**School location:** Federal Way

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
December 2022

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in June 2023

**Student Green Team recognition:**  
Received June 2023

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- After introducing the Green Schools Program to high school students at the school, student and staff conversations led to the start of a student Green Team of 43 high school students.
- The team divided into three sub-teams to research, recommend, and present to the entire school community during an assembly. Sub-teams were:
  1. Tracking and measuring school garbage, recycling, and organics.
  2. Waste prevention strategies.
  3. Development of a school-wide sustainability plan to include waste reduction, energy, and water conservation.
- To reduce paper consumption, the school switched from paper assignments to WhatsApp specific to every class.
- The team set up recycling and trash bins in each classroom, and helped educate fellow students about sorting correctly.
- Green Schools Program staff led a training for kitchen staff about reducing food waste, collecting organics for composting, and collecting recyclable materials.
- By using smaller serving spoons, wasted food was reduced by about 30%. Students who wanted more food could ask for additional portions.



Khalsa Gurmat students monitor recycling, composting, and garbage collection at large annual Sikh community event at Khalsa Gurmat Center.



- The school began serving juice from large bottles into durable, washable glasses instead of individual juice boxes.
- Disposable, single-use plates, spoons, forks, and glasses were replaced by five-section durable, washable plates, spoons, forks, and glasses.
- Vegetable and fruit scraps were placed in an on-site Aerobin Composter, with the goal of using the compost to nourish soil in which students will plant trees at the school.

Student volunteers helped sort materials and reduce waste at the April 2023 Sikh community event.



- A major 2022-2023 initiative was to reduce waste at the annual Sikh community Vaisakhi celebration where 6,000 people from around the state gathered in April 2023 at Khalsa Gurmat Center. For the event, only compostable utensils were provided. Student volunteers helped make sure all solid waste was sorted into compostable materials, recyclable materials, and garbage.
- With help from the Green Schools Program, Cedar Grove Composting, Waste Management, and City of Federal Way, Khalsa Gurmat School achieved these results at the event:
  - Cedar Grove Composting reported diversion of 1.3 tons of food scraps and other compostable materials.
  - Waste Management reported the event diverted 50% of its total waste to composting, 20% to recycling, and only 30% remaining to be landfilled.