



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## King's Elementary School

**School location:** Shoreline

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
April 2006

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in June 2009

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in June 2012

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

**Sustaining Green School 2015-16:**  
Achieved in May 2016

**Sustaining Green School 2016-17:**  
Achieved in May 2017

**Sustaining Green School 2017-18:**  
Achieved in May 2018

**Sustaining Green School 2018-19:**  
Achieved in May 2019

**Sustaining Green School 2019-20:**  
Achieved in December 2020

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- King's Elementary achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 40%.
- The school eliminated all polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) products from its cafeteria and instead used compostable serving-ware.



Gordon Kelly, Vice Principal, Evelyn Huling, Principal, Mathew Lookose, Custodian, and students Annie Hanchett, Carter Bilyeu, and Alex Lundberg show off new recycling containers provided by King County Green Schools Program



Poster promoting No-Waste Fridays



Student reuse art project: Creating a flower using coffee filters



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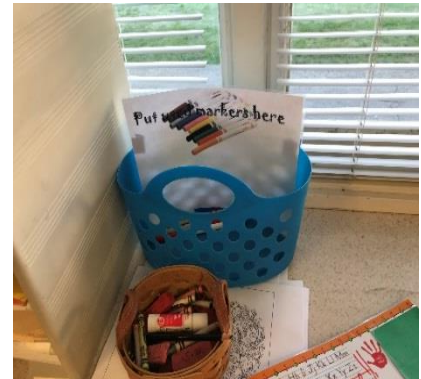
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- Students and kitchen staff collected about 288 gallons per week of food scraps and food-soiled paper for transport to Cedar Grove Composting facility.
- Recycling bins for classrooms and other areas of the school were provided by the Green Schools Program and the school.
- All batteries and light bulbs from campus were recycled.
- The campus participated in Apple's program to recycle old electronic equipment.
- All multi-use printers on campus were set to two-sided printing.
- Kitchen staff recycled steel cans.
- In 2013-14, fourth-grade students created educational presentations for every classroom to encourage use of durable, reusable containers and reduction of single-use plastic materials at lunch.
- The Green Team won second place state-wide in the "Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge" for conducting a waste audit of lunch waste before and after the fourth-grade presentations. Students used this to assess how education about disposable plastics impacted student behavior and the amount of plastics used at school.
- In 2014, a student Eagle Scout built three raised garden beds on the school campus. Second-grade students planted bulbs in the garden, and used an on-site composting system to generate compost for the garden beds from food scraps collected at lunch.
- In 2014, teacher Rachel White's second-grade class created "Remember, These Come from Trees" posters and placed the signs on paper towel dispensers throughout the school to remind students and staff members to reduce paper towel waste.



School yard waste collected for composting



Markers collected for recycling by Crayola's ColorCycle program



An "earth art" student project using a pinecone, leaves, and shells



- The school's art teacher continues to integrate art projects where students create things out of reusable and recyclable materials.
- Second-grade Green Team Leaders distributed Good on One Side (GOOS) paper reuse boxes to all elementary classrooms.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- To reduce energy use, the school adjusted custodial schedules so work was completed during daylight hours.
- The fourth-grade student Green Team placed Idle-Free Zone posters near student pick-up and drop-off areas on campus to remind parents to turn off their engines while waiting.
- Energy efficient lights and fixtures were installed whenever possible.
- Administrative staff members used daily announcements to encourage energy conservation actions.
- Classroom thermostats used pre-set temperatures to conserve energy.
- The school partnered with Puget Sound Energy to conduct energy audits and make additional improvements.

## Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation tips were shared once a month in morning announcements.
- Fourth-grade students reared salmon eggs to learn about the lifecycle of salmon, salmon habitat, and the importance of saving water, and then released the salmon fry into Lake Ballinger.
- Teacher Rachel White and her second-grade students learned about the importance of conserving water when gardening in the newly constructed school garden beds.
- The school participated in City of Shoreline's "Fix a Leak Pledge Program." Families were encouraged to sign a pledge to test for leaking faucets and toilets at home. The response rate for returned pledges was over 80 percent.



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## **Sustaining Green School recognition**

King's Elementary earned Sustaining Green School recognition by sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school built on its Level One through Level Three successes each year is described below.

## **Sustaining Green School 2015-16**

- To reduce packaging waste, the school limited the number of snack packs reused snap lids in the kitchen.
- Durable utensils were used in the lunchroom instead of disposable plastic utensils.
- The school received the King County Earth Challenge assembly and second-grade students participated in King County worm bin workshops.
- At staff meetings and in-service days, teachers and other staff were reminded of what can and cannot be collected for recycling and composting. Reminders and recycling facts were included in weekly memos to families and in all-school announcements. Announcements were also made during each lunch period.
- In April 2016, fourth-grade students placed Earth Day signs throughout the school and made announcements about reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- The art teacher designed art projects where students created items out of reusable and recyclable materials. The art pieces were showcased in the schools display case on a monthly basis.
- Recycling was started in the afterschool program during snack time. Students sorted their waste into recycling, compost, leftover liquid, and garbage bins.
- Bins for compostable materials and leftover liquids were placed in the staff lounge.
- The school installed new flooring in its lunchroom in 2015. The new tiles were cleaned with a mixture of water and 66 Handy Mix, a Sustainable Earth product.
- The kitchen used compostable cups to decrease use of single-use plastic cups.
- The school held an Idle-Free Zone Day and a Waste-Free Lunch Day on Earth Day.
- Fourth-grade students toured the Brightwater Treatment Plant and Education Center to learn how wastewater is cleaned and where it goes.



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- To reduce impermeable surfaces and prevent stormwater runoff, the school installed a permeable emergency access road composed of a grass layer and permeable pad.
- To avoid clogged pipes and sewer systems, kitchen employees reduced oils, fats, and grease products by pre-cooking meats and using paper sheets to reduce grease.
- Students reported campus water leaks to administrative and facilities staff.
- To conserve water, sensors were installed on most faucet fixtures and water was turned off on weekends. The school installed ten new toilet valves and flow restrictors on faucets to conserve water.
- Low-flow toilets, faucet aerators, faucet motion sensors, and high-efficiency, pre-rinse spray heads were installed.
- The school purchased drought-tolerant native vegetation, which make up about 90 percent of the school's open spaces.
- Outdoor watering was done in early morning or evening to reduce water evaporation, and sprinklers were regularly checked by facilities staff to ensure they would only water lawns and plants instead of sidewalks, driveways, and gutters.
- To prevent water pollution, mesh netting was placed over storm drains on campus.

## **Sustaining Green School 2016-17**

- The school began collecting and composting paper towels in second through sixth grade classrooms. The paper towels are placed in the school's compost container.
- As a teaching tool, the school installed raised garden beds near second-grade classes. Pesticides were not used in garden areas and the school enforced an Integrated Pest Management policy to use non-toxic methods and products.
- The school recycled ink cartridges through Staples.
- In March 2017, fourth-grade classes learned about the life cycle of salmon by observing the process in action and releasing salmon at Willow Creek in Edmonds.
- Fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in Wheat Week, a series of five one-hour lessons delivered over the course of one week to educate students about water, soil, watersheds, energy, systems, wheat, and how they impact our lives.





- The school enforced a no idling zone in the parking lot and bus loading zone, and encouraged parents to carpool and use “CarpooltoSchool.com” to facilitate carpooling. Staff were provided with incentives to carpool to school.
- The school used only non-toxic cleaning products and did not purchase or use urinal and toilet cake deodorizers containing para-dichlorobenzene (PDCB).

## **Sustaining Green School 2017-18**

- The school switched from using compostable trays to durable plates in the cafeteria.
- Collection of paper towels to be composted was expanded to all K-6 classrooms and the preschool. Green beans grown in the school garden were used in the annual Thanksgiving lunch.
- As part of their “serve day”, fourth-grade students started a Crayola marker recycling program in classrooms.
- The school stopped using aerosol air fresheners in restrooms and instead purchased a non-aerosol, non-fragrant product.

## **Sustaining Green School 2018-19**

- The school’s kitchen manager collected all clear plastic clamshells used by students and staff and washed them to be reused again.
- Students created a service announcement video on how to sort waste correctly and posted it on YouTube for other students to see.
- Green Team members helped ensure all lights were turned off in empty classrooms at the end of each school day.

## **Sustaining Green School 2019-20**

- Students served as classroom Green Team representatives to help ensure lights were turned off when classes leave the room.
- The school purchased recycled content paper towels for classrooms, and stopped using chemical air fresheners and aerosols. For airflow, fans were used to remove polluted air from the building.

## **Awards**

Art teacher Jody Coulston won a King County Earth Hero at School award in 2018.