



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Lakeland Hills Elementary School

School district: Auburn

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
May 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2014

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

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

Sustaining Green School: Achieved in

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Lakeland Hills Elementary reached and maintained a recycling rate of 74%.
- Due to increased recycling, the school decreased its garbage collection service. When the school's population increased by 200 students, it was still able to maintain the same decreased level of garbage collection service.
- In 2013, the school began collecting compostable materials in its lunchroom and staff lounge for transport to a regional composting facility.
- The school started a waste-free Wednesday campaign to reduce lunchroom waste.



King County Earth Hero at School award: Students receive award in 2014.



Students learning about how oil spills affect the environment



- Green Team members served as waste detectives to check classroom recycling bins and educate the school about correctly sorting materials.
- The school received King County's waste reduction and recycling assembly to help educate students.
- Green Team students and staff promoted waste reduction and recycling efforts through educational posters, bulletin boards, and commercials during morning announcements.
- To reduce paper use, staff were encouraged to limit paper handouts and print double-sided copies.
- Green Team members developed a system to reuse blank sides of copy paper, resulting in a savings of three reams of paper per month.
- The Green Team created and shared a presentation with administrators and staff about current projects, successes, and ideas on how to reduce waste at school.
- The school shared information about its waste reduction and recycling practices with its families at PTA meetings, local community gardening meetings, and through the school's Green Team section of the electronic newsletter.



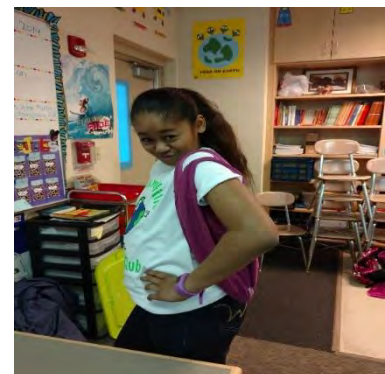
Teacher Alaura Keith accepts King County Earth Hero at School award in 2014



Paper towels collected near a bathroom to be composted at a regional composting facility

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Lakeland Hills decreased its energy use by 11% as a result of conservation efforts.
- The student Green Club created a pledge to encourage energy conservation.
- Energy conservation labels from the Green Schools Program were posted on light switches and computers to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.



Student modeled a reusable bag made from t-shirts.



- In each classroom, students were assigned the job of ensuring that computers were shut down at the end of the day.
- Staff were encouraged to keep windows and doors shut and to turn off lights when leaving rooms.
- The school and district increased energy savings by rewiring hallway emergency lighting fixtures so the lights could only be used during school hours.
- Maintenance staff purchased Energy Star equipment.
- Thermostat systems were installed and programmed to meet district standards.
- The school communicated its energy conservation efforts through regular monthly announcements.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- In 2013-14, the school decreased its monthly per student water consumption from 7.59 CCF to 7.17 CCF.
- Low-flow toilets, faucet aerators, and Energy Star dishwashers helped the school reduce water use. Water faucet sensors were installed to keep water turned off while students and staff soaped their hands.
- A water saving irrigation system was used in the school garden.
- Regular monthly announcements shared water conservation and water pollution prevention tips.
- Custodial staff routinely checked for leaky faucets and reported problems immediately for maintenance. Kitchen staff reduced water use by only running full loads of dishes.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Lakeland Hills sustained and built 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 2014-15

In March 2015, the school participated in a designated Earth Hour in which families turned off nonessential lights and discussed environmental actions. Daily announcements were made to promote Earth Hour, an Earth Hour video was shown in all classrooms, and an email encouraging participation in Earth Hour was sent to parents. Afterward, students and staff shared what they did during Earth Hour and teachers led students in discussions about sustainability.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- After observing high levels of contamination or garbage in recycling bins at the start of the school year, announcements were made to remind students and staff how to correctly sort waste items.
- Scott Weide, district resource conservation manager, led the Green Team through a waste analysis to determine areas for improvement.
- The school held a fall Earth Challenge Assembly and shared monthly announcements to teach students of waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The Green Team posted signs around the school to remind students to conserve energy and save water.
- The kitchen conducted an analysis to determine the quantity of durable utensils that had to be replaced due to students mistakenly placing utensils in recycling, food scrap, or garbage bins. To encourage students to keep utensils out of those bins, students launched a Save Me from the Landfill campaign, and shared their findings with the PTA.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

Students completed a project illustrating how storm water drains are connected to local water sources. Students relabeled storm drains "Drains to Puget Sound" around the community to help show connections between surface water and the ocean and how the ocean can be polluted from oil and other toxic materials.



Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Lessons about endangered animals and how the consumption of resources affects the habitats they reside in were incorporated into classroom curriculum.
- In 2018, Green Team members presented school conservation successes, ideas, and goals to the school board.
- The Green Team received a training workshop about endangered animals and their habitats as well as what makes a habitat healthy and how human actions can protect habitats. Students created and shared posters about endangered animals that listed actions that can be taken to protect endangered animals.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The Green Team maintained signage at waste stations and made posters to encourage students to use the 4R's-Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
- They monitored waste stations at breakfast and lunch and helped others understand how to sort correctly.
- Third-grade students participated in City of Auburn workshops.
 - In the Waste Reduction and Recycling workshops, they learned about where garbage ends up, why it is important to make less garbage, and how they can help by packing a waste-free lunch and sorting their recycling and compostable materials.
 - In the Stormwater Investigators workshops, they learned common sources of stormwater pollution and how they can help keep local watersheds and the Puget Sound healthy.
- Green Team students researched the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and designed projects to help the school learn about plastic pollution and solutions.
- The team created a display showing reusable alternatives to disposable plastics (such as grocery and sandwich bags, plastic utensils, single-use water bottles, and plastic straws) and a pledge wall where students could pledge to reuse.
- The team created art depicting an ocean scene with disposable plastic packaging and used old t-shirts to make reusable bags.
- The Green Team promoted an anti-idling campaign at school. In classroom presentations, Green Team students shared the impacts of idling and made



signs to promote the campaign. No-idle zone signs were installed in the pick-up area and parking lot to encourage turning off engines while waiting to pick-up. The No Idle campaign was chosen to be presented at the STEM alliance meeting in Olympia and publicized on [KOMO news](#).

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Green Team students monitored waste stations daily to help fellow students correctly sort materials. Green Schools Program signs were displayed on recycling bins throughout the school to show what materials can be recycled.
- Kitchen staff monitored a food share table, and students were encouraged to place unopened, packaged items from the school lunch program on the table for other students to take.
- Reusable lunch trays were used.
- Classrooms collected empty, dry plastic bags which teacher Alaura Keith periodically brought to a local grocery store to be recycled.
- Third-grade students participated in a field trip to the King County Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Facility to learn more about waste and recycling. The third-grade also benefited from City of Auburn recycling workshops.
- Green Team students participated in a workshop about household hazardous wastes, how to safely dispose of them, and safer options.
- The school and Green Team continued to remind the school community about energy conservation, no idling, and water conservation actions.

Awards

- The Lakeland Hills Elementary Green Team received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2014. In addition to leadership in the school, Green Team members were spokespersons for district conservation initiatives and ambassadors at a community event.
- In 2017, the school received a Washington State Green School Leader award for reducing environmental impact and costs (Pillar 1 of the U.S. Green Ribbon School awards) and for excellent environment and sustainability education (Pillar 2 of the U.S. Green Ribbon School awards).