



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Woodinville

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in June 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Initially organized and energized by parent volunteers, the Wilder Elementary Green Schools team grew to include students, teachers, and staff as well as parents.
- The school increased its recycling rate from 43% to 53% by improving classroom recycling and starting to recycle cans, bottles and milk cartons in its lunchroom.
- With help from parent volunteers, sixth-grade student leaders placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins to show what can be recycled.
- With support from the district, the school began sorting food scraps and food-soiled paper for collection by Cedar Grove Composting. As a result, Wilder decreased the size of its garbage container by 25%, thus saving the district money.
- Compared to the other 26 elementary schools in the district, only four other elementary schools in the district generate less trash per student.
- Along with students and teachers, head custodian Chad Lux and instructional assistant/lunchroom lead Jan Kiehl supported the conservation practices - and the success of the food scrap collection was due to their leadership.



Green Team students help with lunchroom recycling and display posters about food scrap recycling.



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- The student Green Team helped educate the school about waste reduction, recycling and composting. Student monitors in the lunchroom assisted fellow students to sort their recyclable and compostable materials.
- Wilder's student council sponsored two Waste-Free-Fridays in the lunchroom and used part of its budget to buy compostable bag liners for lunchroom food scrap bins.
- The school recycled Capri Sun juice pouches. A sixth-grade student packaged them up and mailed them to TerraCycle, a company that recycles juice pouches into useable products like tote bags. The school earned two cents per packet.
- During 2010-11, a school-wide assembly from King County encouraged and taught students and staff about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Sixth-grade student council members shared energy saving tips once each month during morning announcements.
- Stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed on each electric outlet and computer monitor as reminders to turn off equipment and save energy.
- The school continued waste reduction and recycling practices started in 2009-2010.

Comments

“Thanks in part to the Green Schools program, the Wilder community has embraced the notion that we can reduce the amount of waste we add to landfills. We have started to take bold steps to affect positive change, and I am confident that Wilder will continue to strive for waste reduction in the coming years.” – Ryan Scott, sixth-grade teacher