



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Leota Middle School

School district: Northshore

School location: Woodinville

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
October 2008

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2018

Note: Schools can opt to work on Level Three water conservation practices before Level Two energy conservation practices.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Leota Middle School achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 60%. As a result of increased recycling, the school downsized one of its garbage dumpsters and decreased garbage pickups.
- Leota began to recycle in all classrooms by placing recycling bins and stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what materials can be recycled.
- Along with kitchen and custodial staff, Leota's Green Team conducted a 4-week lunchroom pilot to collect food scraps and food-soiled paper products for composting at a regional composting facility. They set up a collection system, educated students and staff about what materials can be composted, and weighed and tracked lunchroom waste volumes daily.



Leota students and staff kick off their food scrap collection program.



Students help spread compost, donated by Cedar Grove Composting, on school grounds



Robin Lane Schommer, parent volunteer, receives the King County award in April 2011.



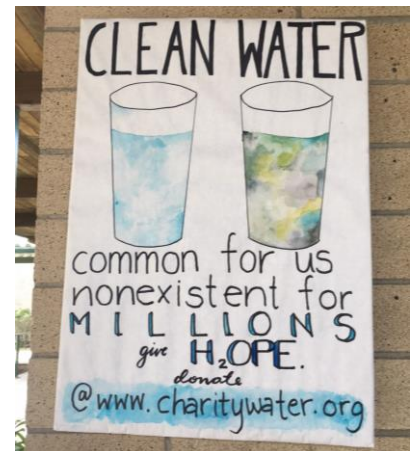
- During the pilot, the school collected more than 100 pounds of food scraps and food soiled-paper each day for a total of more than 2,000 pounds of compostable material. In 2010, Cedar Grove Composting started to collect organic materials from the school.
- A parent volunteer coordinated a fundraiser to cover the cost of Cedar Grove collection services. Cedar Grove Composting donated bags of compost, which were purchased by families and friends of Leota. More than \$1,000 was raised to cover the cost of organics collection services for one school year.
- On Earth Day, 30 bags of compost from Cedar Grove Composting facility was spread on school grounds.
- In fall 2017, the student Green Team planned and led a “monster” campaign to encourage fellow students to fight trash zombies, wasteful werewolves, etc.
- To teach students and staff how to reduce waste and recycle, students in the GET IT Club created signs, posters, and an educational video, and hosted a Green Spirit Week where they made daily presentations and announcements.
- At the start of each school year, incoming sixth-grade orientation included training about Leota’s waste reduction and recycling practices.



Student created conservation signs

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation and water pollution prevention facts and tips were shared in morning announcements and informational posters.
- Students completed an informational campaign about water conservation and climate change around the world by creating posters and actions for World Water Day.
- Sixth-grade leadership classes posted water conservation signs next to all school sinks and checked for any leaks to report to maintenance staff.





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- Drought-tolerant plants were included in school landscaping projects.
- Staff were asked to run the staff lounge dishwasher only when full.
- When replacements were required, Leota installed water-efficient and low-flow fixtures and aerators.

Awards

- Student Cora Byers received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2009.
- Student Audrey Phillips received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2009.
- Custodian Jon Nishimura received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2010.
- Parent volunteer Robin Lane Schommer received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2011.
- Leota was awarded a \$1,000 “Give Kids a Hand” grant from the East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs for its organics collection.