



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Liberty High School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Renton

Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2009

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2013

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

Note: Liberty High completed Level Three prior to completing Level Two.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017



Liberty students take pride in a road clean-up effort near the school.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Liberty High School achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 71%, thanks to reducing waste and collecting recyclable and compostable materials.
- Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled were placed on all recycling bins, and stickers showing what can be composted were placed on all food scrap bins.
- The school reduced paper use by using electronic newsletters and fliers, and teachers used electronic drop boxes for homework.
- Students made and hung posters around the school about reducing waste and other conservation practices.
- Students started a used printer cartridge recycling fundraiser which raised \$200 in 2009-10. The money was used to buy native plants for campus beautification.



- Green Team students created 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached to hang in the lunchroom above recycling, garbage, and food scrap collection bins. The team included information in daily announcements about why recycling and reducing waste matters.
- Students completed an Adopt-A-Road clean-up for Earth Day. The Earth Day clean-up crew collected approximately 30 bags of garbage.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The student Green Team promoted energy conservation through announcements and posters displayed throughout the school.
- Liberty High School dedicated one day of its March 2013 Sustainability Week to energy conservation. The Green Team shared energy saving tips. Other days during that week focused on waste reduction, water quality, green building design, and reducing carbon footprints.
- In 2012-13, the environmental science classes
 - Compared benefits and disadvantages of various energy sources.
 - Studied the school's real-time energy consumption using sensors in an on-site photovoltaic ray. Students analyzed and monitored the data and created graphs to identify and illustrate major changes or areas of improvement in energy use.
- The Issaquah School District specified in its contract with Coca-Cola that the vending machine display lights be permanently turned off to conserve energy.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Throughout the year, the Green Team created and hung posters about the importance of conserving water and checked for water leaks on campus.
- The school collaborated with Sustainability Ambassadors to deliver Storm Water Systems Thinking Curriculum to educate students and empower them to take action to help solve storm water pollution challenges.
- Students helped design a rain garden as part of the school's modernization and sustainability plan.



Sustaining Green School recognition

Liberty High sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The Green Team created a new sign-holder from which to hang 3-dimensional posters above cafeteria sorting stations to help students sort correctly.
- Student Sustainability Ambassadors led a student ambassador summit at Issaquah High School in fall 2016.
- Students adopted a highway and conducted litter pickups twice each year.
- In 2013, a student group raised money for tree planting in the local watershed.
- Teacher Kaela Yuen presented at staff meetings about the school's Green School goals and progress, to encourage participation in the Waste-Free Wednesday campaign, and to survey staff about classroom recycling.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The Green Team, Sustainability Ambassadors, the Green Schools Program, and City of Issaquah planned and led an all-district meeting for the district's high school Green Teams. Students shared best practices and programs, and brainstormed ways to strengthen their Green Teams.
- The Green Team organized a campus cleanup day after winter break. Waste was separated from compost during cleanup.
- The team held a Waste-Free Wednesday event, and conducted a trash-on-a-tarp sort and analysis of lunch waste. A total of 12.04 pounds of trash, 38.30 pounds of compost, and 11.90 pounds of recyclable materials was gathered at both lunches.