



Louisa May Alcott Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Redmond

Began participating in Green Schools Program: October 2018

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2022

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2023

Note: Schools may complete Level Three water conservation criteria before working on or completing Level Two energy conservation criteria.

Student Green Team recognition: Received in June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school went from a 25% recycling rate in fall 2019 to a 40% recycling rate in winter 2022.
- With guidance from teacher and Green Team advisor Melissa Tavares, the Student Leadership Team and Green Team partnered to improve conservation practices at Alcott Elementary.
- Student leaders created posters about Green Team projects, Ms. Tavares asked all teachers to share a PPT presentation with their classes about reducing, reusing, and recycling at school, and grades K-2 attended a King County virtual assembly about reducing waste and recycling.
- Fifth-grade classrooms piloted a Table to Farm food waste collection program by placing food scraps in reusable containers which Ms. Tavares brought home for her farm animals.
- Teachers were asked to place a scrap paper bin in their classrooms for paper used only on one side. Students used the paper to take notes.
- Empty clean plastic bags were collected to drop off at a local grocery store that accepted the bags for recycling.



Water Conservation (Level Three)

- While continuing its Level One practices, the school learned about water conservation.
- To maintain and improve waste reduction and recycling practices:
 - Recycling collection continued in classrooms, offices, and at lunchtime.
 - Student leaders created posters to place above recycling bins.
 - Student leaders taught K-1 classes about food scrap collection, made intercom announcements about reducing waste and recycling, and created video skits about reducing food waste and recycling.
 - Several classrooms collected about 50 pounds of food scraps each month, which Ms. Tavares used to feed her farm animals.
 - Students were encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to school.
- With librarian and Green Team advisor Melissa Tavares and PTSA sustainability chair Aspen Richter, the 52-member Green Team of fourth- and fifth-grade students created posters about food scrap collection for each classroom and planned Earth Month activities.
- To educate the school about water conservation, the Green Team:
 - Created three videos about conserving water and reducing water pollution, using facts from the Green Schools Program website resources.
 - Made morning intercom announcements about water conservation as well as food waste reduction and recycling.
 - Encouraged students to wet their hands, turn the faucet off while using soap, and turn the faucet back on to rinse.
 - Taught a lesson in each classroom about conserving water.
- In the library, Ms. Tavares taught lessons on conserving and protecting water.
- A rainwater barrel was installed in the school's flower garden, and the collected water was used to irrigate the garden. The school held a planting event and sent each student home with a small plant for their gardens or planter boxes.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Through the monthly school newsletter and ParentSquare, families were kept updated on Green Team activities and encouraged to carry out conservation practices at home.
- In the 2022-2023 school year, Alcott Elementary started to work on energy conservation practices by:
 - Keeping hallway and entrance doors closed to conserve energy use.
 - Teachers turning off electronic equipment at the end of the day and assigning a class job to turn off lights as the class leaves.
 - Displaying books in the library about energy conservation.
 - Posting “no idling” signs to remind drivers to turn off their vehicles when picking up students.