



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Madrona Elementary School

**School district:** Highline

**School location:** SeaTac

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** November 2007

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2009

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2012

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Madrona Elementary School increased its recycling rate from 32% to 54%.
- Due to increased recycling, the school cut its garbage volume in half and eliminated one of its two 4-yard garbage dumpsters, thus reducing costs by \$589 per month.
- Students helped empty recycling bins in common areas and offices.
- Newsletter articles, staff emails, and notices on the staff bulletin were used to promote the school's waste reduction and recycling efforts.
- Teacher Eve Kolakowski organized a "no paper day" in 2009. Both students and staff learned about paper consumption and its impacts on the environment.
- The school placed Reuse It boxes in classrooms for paper only used on one side, and 80% of the school's teachers used the boxes in their classrooms.
- Madrona staff eliminated unwanted newspaper subscriptions and mail by requesting removal from vendor mailing lists.
- Recycling bins from the Green Schools Program were placed in the lunchroom for empty milk cartons, juice boxes, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans.
- School staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins. The stickers show what can be recycled.
- The school recycled over 600 milk cartons per day.
- Several teachers took home lunchroom food scraps and pizza boxes to place in their household yard waste bins.



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

---

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- With support from the district resource conservation manger Pandora Touart, Madrona reduced its energy consumption by 31%. One contributing factor was the adjustment of the timing of the occupancy sensor system.
- Students monitored computers to make sure they were turned off over weekends, and reminded staff and students to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- A staff member worked with the custodian to ensure all outside doors were closed during recess to contain the heat in the building.