



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Margaret Mead Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Sammamish

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school increased its recycling rate from 33% to 50%.
- As a result, the school's garbage dumpster was picked up once each week instead of twice per week, saving the school district an estimated \$4,000 annually.
- Students emptied classroom recycling bins into larger bins daily.
- Students started to recycle empty milk cartons and juice boxes at lunch.
- The school promoted waste-free lunches on Wednesdays to raise awareness and reduce overall lunch waste.
- To reduce use of Styrofoam lunch trays, Styrofoam trays were only used for "messy foods" as identified by the district's food service provider.
- To conserve paper, each classroom used a paper reuse box for paper only used on one side.
- Sixth-grade students conducted informal classroom recycling bin audits to find out how well teachers and students were sorting recyclable materials and garbage. When they found recyclables in garbage bins or items in recycling bins that can't be recycled, the students reminded the class how to sort and what can be recycled.



Bulletin board featuring information about how to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE.



Sorting station and posters in the cafeteria



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- The Green Team created the following education and outreach materials:
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle bulletin board.
 - Three-dimensional posters to hang above garbage and recycling bins in the lunchroom to show which items can and can't be recycled or thrown away.
 - Videos to show at lunchtime to teach about recycling and promote the school's recycling progress.
- The music teacher and third-grade classes created a music video to raise awareness about waste reduction and recycling.
- The school participated in the King County elementary school assembly program and classroom workshops to train staff and students on the importance of recycling and what can be recycled.

Award

Margaret Mead Elementary received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in May 2012 for their waste reduction and recycling program.