



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Mark Twain Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington School District

School location: Kirkland

Began participating in Green Schools Program:

December 2018

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in May 2019



Green Team students help fellow students sort cafeteria waste

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Mark Twain increased its recycling rate from 45% in January 2019 to 50% in April 2019, thanks to practices and education described below.
- A recycling bin with a recycling sign was placed next to each garbage bin in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and other areas of the school.
- The school used durable reusable trays and utensils in its cafeteria, and collected food scraps and other compostable materials to be transported to Cedar Grove Composting.
- To reduce wasted food, “take or bring only what you will eat” messages were shared with students, and students and families were encouraged to pack lunches from home in reusable containers.
- The school started a student Green Team which met monthly and made regular announcements about how to reduce waste and recycle. The team conducted a cafeteria waste audit, and helped fellow students sort in the cafeteria.
- The school reduced paper use by posting student assignments on the school website, making double-sided copies, and placing paper trays in classrooms for paper used only on one side so students could use the blank sides.



Green Team students conduct waste audit