



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Mattson Middle School

School district: Kent

School location: Covington

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: October 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2015

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- By promoting waste reduction and recycling practices throughout the school, Mattson increased its recycling rate from 38% to 46%.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were placed in classrooms, lunchroom, kitchen, staff lounge, and copy/supply room.
- The custodian regularly emptied and monitored recycling bins to reduce contamination.
- The school made weekly announcements to remind students about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The student Green Team created posters for the lunchroom to help students sort their lunch waste into recyclable materials and garbage.
- To reduce food waste, a food share table was set up at lunch so students could place unopened, packaged food from the school meal program for others to take.
- To reduce lunchroom waste, plastic-wrapped utensils and straws were replaced with loose utensils and straws. Instead of purchasing individually wrapped packages of condiments, the lunchroom switched to bulk condiment dispensers.
- In the staff room, staff used durable plates, utensils, and cups.
- To limit paper handouts, students turned in most of their work electronically, staff used email for regularly issued newsletters, bulletins, and other notifications, and staff followed a “print only what you need” policy.
- Office staff created and oversaw a reuse station for office supplies.
- The office switched to reusable hall passes and visitor badges.
- The school stored and reused holiday decorations whenever possible.



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- Grass clippings were left on lawns and athletic fields to fertilize the grass.
- In March 2015, the school hosted a Family S.T.E.M. Night that included information about how recycling and waste reduction relate to science, technology and engineering.
- Seventh- and eighth- grade classes received the King County *Consumption Junction* classroom workshops which taught students about the lifecycles of consumer products and the environmental impacts of overconsumption.