



McMurray Middle School

School district: Vashon

School location: Vashon

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2017

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2018

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school created a Green Team made up of six students. At the school's community day, an information booth was set up to recruit Green Team members.
- To promote the school's participation in King County Green Schools Program, the school made regular announcements about conservation practices.
- The Green Team monitored waste stations to record what materials students were placing in the wrong bins, and used the data to inform students about which materials should be placed in garbage, recycling, and food waste (organics) bins.
- McMurray set up a food share table in its cafeteria where unwanted, unopened and packaged foods from the school lunch program could be taken by students that wanted more food.
- Food scraps from the cafeteria were sent to a local pig farm to reduce the amount of landfilled food.
- McMurray increased its recycling rate from 37 percent to 43 percent.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- McMurray's student Green Team of 35 students:
 - Created posters and shared announcements over the PA system about energy conservation practices.



- Gave stickers to students they observed engaging in conservation practices.
- Advocated at the district level to have motion sensors installed and to replace fluorescent bulbs with to LED lights to conserve energy.
- The school asked staff and students to turn off lights when they leave a room, encouraged energy efficient modes for projectors and smart boards, and asked staff to open blinds in daylight hours to let in natural light and to close them at the end of the day.
- The district restricted use of personal appliances such as mini-fridges and supplemental space heaters.
- The district planned energy audits with help from student Green Teams.
- School staff worked with technology staff to increase electronics recycling.
- Science classes received King County EcoConnections workshops about waste and consumption.
- To maintain and expand waste reduction practices, Green Team members:
 - Researched how much waste the school generated and brainstormed how to reduce the waste.
 - Counted how many single-use utensils were used at lunches for two weeks, then led a "bring your own utensil challenge."
 - Campaigned for and succeeded at getting food services to serve meals on reusable trays instead of disposable single-use plates and dishes.
 - Encouraged students and staff to correctly sort recyclable and compostable materials, and to keep the campus clean and litter-free.
 - Promoted bringing a reusable water bottle to school and using the school water bottle filling stations to refill water bottles. Most students carried a water bottle with them each day.
- The school continued to make sure recycling and food waste bins were placed and labeled throughout the school, and to set up food share tables at meal times so students can place unwanted, unopened foods from the school meal program for other students to take.