



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Meadow Ridge Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: November 2011

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meadow Ridge Elementary reached a recycling rate of 50%.
- Recycling increases resulted in a decrease in garbage collection service from twice per week to once per week.
- Lunchroom announcements made by assistant principal Brian Lockhart encouraging students to drink all their milk resulted in a decrease in leftover liquids from six gallons per day to one-half gallon per day.
- Recycling bins were placed in all classrooms, offices, and cafeteria, and the school recycled paper, cardboard, and empty bottles, aluminum cans, and milk cartons.
- Education about waste reduction and recycling included regular morning announcements, staff meeting announcements, and lunchroom presentations.
- Brett Nowak, head custodian, supported the school's recycling efforts by assisting with lunchtime milk carton recycling and monitoring outdoor collection containers.
- As part of a district initiative to reduce lunch waste, plastic-wrapped packets of utensils, straws, and napkins were eliminated. In their place, bulk dispensers offered an individual selection of unwrapped utensils and napkins.
- The central district kitchen donated leftover edible food that cannot be used prior to its expiration date.
- Paper use was decreased due to smart boards in classrooms and use of electronic overdue library notices.
- Reusable supplies were available in classrooms and the teacher workroom.
- Unwanted newspaper subscriptions were eliminated and email was used instead of paper copies for staff and family newsletters.