



## Medina Elementary School

**School district:** Bellevue

**School location:** Medina

**Began participation in the Green Schools Program:** February 2008

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2009

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2010

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in April 2011

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- As of April 2011, the school reduced its garbage volume from 16 cubic yards per week to 12 cubic yards per week, and increased its recycling rate from 27% to 40%.
- In 2008-09, staff and students started to recycle empty milk cartons. Student monitors held recycling presentations on kick-off day.
- The school reduced lunch garbage from 150 gallons to 55 gallons per day. Each day at lunch 64 gallons of recyclable materials were collected. It was estimated that 2,000 bags of garbage - enough to fill two classrooms - were recycled.
- Students created and distributed posters to promote recycling. Students also produced a video called the “just one” challenge to encourage students to make one change to conserve resources and help the environment.
- Students were encouraged to finish their milk, rather than dumping it out, before recycling the milk cartons. Students stacked trays at lunch to reduce garbage volume in the outdoor garbage dumpster.
- All classrooms, offices and the cafeteria had recycling bins with stickers showing what can and can't be recycled.
- To reduce paper use, the PTA newsletter is issued electronically and the principal's letter is sent to parents electronically.



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- In 2009-10, the school began to collect food scraps and food-soiled paper to be transported to a regional composting facility.
- Approximately 200 gallons of compostable material was collected each week, and the school's garbage was reduced from 2,640 gallons to 385 gallons per week.
- An estimated 58% of the school's lunchroom solid waste was collected for recycling and composting, up from the 11% collected before food scrap collection began.
- Student volunteers helped to monitor each recycling and composting station in the lunchroom, answering questions and guiding other students.
- To promote the new food scrap collection program, students created a slide show about composting and presented it to each classroom. Student volunteers led sorting activities to teach classes what can and can't be collected for composting.
- Students performed skits and made announcements to encourage conservation.
- The daily newscast was used to remind staff and students about composting collection. Announcements were made about the importance of composting and about the school's recycling successes.
- Printer cartridges were collected for recycling.

## Transportation

- The school held an anti-idling campaign. Anti-idling reminders were broadcast in every classroom during the daily newscast, and student Green Team members visited each class to present information about idling. Green Team members stood outside the school waving signs that read "No Idle Zone" to remind parents to turn off their engines while waiting for their children.
- Student Green Team members tallied the cars that were idling. Before the campaign, they counted 18, but only two idling cars were counted after the campaign. All staff received an email with these results.
- The student Green Team developed a slideshow about idling and alternative transportation methods that teachers could show to their classes on smart boards.



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## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students organized a “low energy day” where classrooms tried to use as little energy as possible. On that day, energy use was reduced by 265.8 kilowatt hours.
- Students placed stickers on every light switch as a reminder to turn off the lights when rooms are not occupied.
- Energy conservation practices were shared in classrooms on the daily newscast.

## Environmental education

- Teachers started a school garden.
- Near the garden, a worm bin is maintained as an educational tool. The worms are fed with food scraps collected from some classrooms.
- Prior to Earth Day, Green Team members sent emails to teachers with links to various Earth Day activity sites.

## Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Facts about water conservation were shared during the daily newscast.
- Classes organized a field trip to a local watershed.
- Fourth-grade classes participated in Nature Vision’s “Healthy Water Systems” workshop.
- Students placed “turn water off” stickers by sinks throughout the school.
- In the lunchroom and through the daily newscast, staff and students promoted the practice of drinking all of one’s milk and shared that a dairy cow must drink four gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.

## Award

Teacher Kristi Stroyan was recognized as a King County Earth Hero at School in 2008.