



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Meeker Middle School

School district: Kent

School location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2011

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meeker Middle School increased its recycling rate from 36% in 2011 to 50% by 2013.
- Thanks to the school's recycling and waste reduction successes, garbage collection service was reduced.
- Belinda Lipp, head custodian, supported the school's recycling efforts by assisting with lunchtime recycling and monitoring outdoor collection containers.
- The district reduced waste by eliminating plastic-wrapped utensils, napkins, and straws and replacing them with loose utensils and napkins available from sanitary bulk dispensers. Plastic drinking straws were eliminated in the lunchroom.
- To increase recycling, classroom recycling bins were changed from paper-only bins to comingled collection bins, and recycling bins were placed in the lunchroom for milk cartons, juice boxes, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans. Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can and can't be recycled were placed on all school recycling bins.
- To promote recycling, the student Green Team:
 - Created recycling videos to share with the entire school.



RIBBIT, Meeker's Green Team mascot, poses with King County Executive Constantine at the April 2012 Earth Heroes at School event



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- Designed t-shirts to help identify Green Team members as they monitor lunchroom recycling stations to help students correctly sort recyclable materials and garbage.
- Created a Green Team mascot, Ribbit the Frog, to promote recycling.
- Initiated competitions between lunches to support recycling efforts. The team created large thermometer posters to show the amount of recyclable materials generated at each lunch. The winning lunch period earned the privilege of moving straight into the food line instead of being called on by table.
- Hosted a lunchroom game twice weekly in which student participants were asked to decide if each material was garbage or recyclable. Winners received a small prize.
- Received King County's classroom workshops to educate students.
- The school reduced its paper use by providing laptops for students to complete digital assignments. Each classroom also used a paper reuse box for paper only used on one side.
- To decrease compostable waste going to the landfill, the school left grass clippings on the lawn and composted leaves and other yard waste on site.
- Meeker Middle displayed its Green School banner in the lunchroom to recognize and promote their sustainability efforts.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- To promote energy conservation, the student Green Team:
 - Placed "Turn off the Lights" stickers from the Green Schools Program next to all light switches.
 - Laminated and placed "Turn off Electronic Equipment" signs in all classrooms.
 - Shared energy conservation tips during morning and staff meeting announcements.
 - Created videos to inform staff and students how to conserve energy use.



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- To conserve energy, Kent School District's software shut down non-administrator computers automatically in the evening.
- Meeker Middle School set thermostats between 68 and 70 degrees and encouraged staff to leave the settings alone.

Award

The leadership class at Meeker Middle School received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.