



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Meredith Hill Elementary School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: October 2012

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meredith Hill increased its recycling rate from 20% to 51%.
- Thanks to increased recycling, Meredith Hill decreased garbage collection service from an 8-yard to a 6-yard dumpster.
- Para-educator Penny Copeland, with help from King County Green Schools Program, developed a plan for school-wide school recycling. She presented the plan at a staff meeting and to students in the lunchroom.
- In December 2012, Meredith Hill received King County's waste reduction and recycling assembly to help educate students and staff, and recruited and formed a student Green Team.
- In February 2013, every grade level received training from the King County Green Schools Program on how to sort recyclable and compostable materials. Fifth-grade classes were trained to assist with the school's recycling program.
- By April 2013, with leadership and support from Copeland and head custodian Joanne Yale, the school started to collect recyclable and compostable items in its lunchroom and staff lounge. Green Team students created 3-dimensional posters using garbage and recyclable items from the school's waste stream.
- Students wore King County Green Team aprons to identify themselves as recycling station monitors, and assisted other students to correctly sort after breakfast and lunch.
- The school promoted waste free lunches, encouraged students to "take only what you will eat and eat what you take," and established a food share table in the lunchroom for unopened, packaged foods from the school meal program.
- Meredith Hill reduced paper use by sending its parent newsletter electronically. The school's successful recycling program was shared with families in 2013 newsletters.
- Staff members used durable dishes in the staff lounge.



Meredith Hill's Green Team students monitor cafeteria recycling stations to help other students properly sort lunch waste.



Green Team students wear King County Green Team aprons to identify themselves as recycling station monitors.



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- Meredith Hill also used a variety of reusable products, such as reusable visitor badges, hall passes, tablecloths, flower vases, and party decorations.
- The school promoted waste reduction and recycling practices in staff bulletins, during staff meetings, and at morning assemblies and lunchtime.