



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Meridian Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:

September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meridian Elementary School increased its recycling rate from 25% to 40%.
- To achieve this increase, the school improved classroom recycling and started to recycle cans, bottles, and milk cartons in the lunchroom.
- School staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on all classroom and lunchroom recycling bins to show what can be recycled.
- Posters were hung throughout the school to remind students to recycle.
- Each grade level was instructed on what can be recycled, how to sort, and how waste reduction, recycling, and composting conserve natural resources.
- In 2010 and 2011, students attended The Earth Day Fair at Salt Water State Park to participate in interactive exhibits on recycling, the watershed, wildlife preservation, and national and community service.
- Students participated in a tree planting program sponsored by King County Parks and Recreation, and the school celebrated April as the Clean and Green Month.
- Meridian Elementary's improved recycling program helped students understand how to practice good citizenship, community contribution, and moral responsibility.



Students and staff work together to recycle milk cartons

Energy Conservation

- Staff saved energy by turning off electronics and lights when they were not needed.

Comments

"Meridian is doing great with our recycling efforts. Students now consistently recycle milk cartons, which is a huge savings at the elementary level. Way to go, Meridian!"

– Shannan Painter, principal (2011)