



Midway Elementary School

School district: Highline

School location: Des Moines

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: October 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2014

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Midway Elementary increased its recycling rate from 46% to 56%.
- The school collected recyclable materials in classrooms, offices, and cafeteria, and, in 2014, started a pilot milk carton recycling program in 15 classrooms.
- Student Green Team members were trained by the Green Schools Program to sort recyclable materials and garbage.
- In 2014, the school received King County's waste reduction and recycling assembly and classroom workshops to help educate students and staff.
- Waste audits were conducted three times during the school year to assess the school's recycling success and need for improvement.
- For the cafeteria, the Green Team created three-dimensional posters with actual items glued to them to show students what can be recycled.
- Green Team students monitored recycling and garbage bins during breakfast and lunch to ensure correct sorting.
- To reduce paper waste, Green Team students created GOOS (Good on One Side) boxes for classrooms to collect paper used on one side only, so students and staff could use the blank side for notes.
- Midway reduced waste by using reusable baskets and bulk condiment dispensers in its lunchroom.
- Monthly announcements emphasized waste reduction and recycling practices for classrooms and the cafeteria. Announcements shared results from the Green Team waste audit, applauded recycling rate increases, and reminded students and staff about what can and can't be recycled.