



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Mill Creek Middle School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: March 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in March 2010

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Mill Creek increased its recycling rate from 18% to 37%.
- By reducing paper use and lunchtime waste, the school decreased its total solid waste by 440 cubic yards during the 2009-10 school year.
- At lunchtime, the school began to collect empty cans, bottles, and milk cartons, and students and staff were informed about why recycling matters and what can be recycled.
- Due to the school's recycling success, the garbage dumpster was picked up half as often, resulting in an average savings of \$200 per month.
- As the lunchroom program got started, volunteer student monitors helped fellow students to sort garbage and recyclable materials.
- Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled were placed on all school recycling bins.
- To promote recycling, students created a video about recycling do's and don'ts to share during video announcements. It was also shown at the Kent School District Tech Expo where students promoted recycling practices.



At district-wide Tech Expo, Green Team students set up a recycling sorting game to help attendees learn what items can be recycled.