



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Nautilus K-8 School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Federal Way

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2009

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

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- In 2009-10, Nautilus increased its recycling rate from 25% to 33%, saving \$217 per month in garbage collection costs by reducing the outdoor garbage dumpster size.
- The school did this by educating students and staff about what can be recycled and starting to recycle in the lunchroom.
- In 2010-11, Nautilus began to collect food scraps and other compostable materials and increased its recycling rate from 33% to 41%. Nautilus continued to maintain a 41 percent recycling rate in 2011-12.
- Staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins.
- The student Green Team:
 - Created and presented PowerPoint presentations and skits in the lunchroom during Earth Week.
 - Made daily announcements about recycling.
 - Taught lower grade students how to monitor lunchroom recycling bins.
 - Held a “no contamination” contest in classrooms. The Associated Student Body presented trophies they made out of recycled materials to classes with no contaminants (only recyclable materials) in their recycling bins.
- Students wrote letters to government officials about reducing carbon dioxide emissions that cause ocean acidification.
- Nautilus students and staff completed a school-wide clean up on Earth Day.



After winning the student-run “No Contamination in the Recycling Bins” contest, three Nautilus classes pose with their trophies which were made by ASB from recycled materials.



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- Sixth- and seventh-grade students participated in an annual neighborhood ravine clean-up project, coordinating with cities of Federal Way and Des Moines for garbage pickup.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Maintenance staff replaced all school bulbs with more energy-efficient lights.
- Middle school students made posters for placing around the building to remind students to conserve energy.
- The PTA newsletter included a conservation tip in each monthly publication. All tips were written by a middle school student.
- Leadership students placed “Turn off the Lights” stickers from the Green Schools Program next to all light switches.
- Middle school students shared conservation tips over the intercom during morning announcements.
- Staff received regular reminders to turn off lights, shut down computers, and close blinds at the end of every day.
- Signs were posted in computer labs to turn off monitors when transitioning from one class to another.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Students created and posted water conservation signs next to each sink in the building with the message "Turn off water when not in use."
- Students participated in the annual Lake Haven Utility Water Conservation Poster Contest.
- In 2011-12, students measured water flow from faucets around the school, compiled the data into tables, and graphed the results.
- Students made regular morning announcements to share facts and information on how to conserve water.

Awards

- Nautilus teacher Lisa Torres received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.