



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Neely O'Brien Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2009

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Neely O'Brien Elementary increased its recycling rate from 25% to 31%.
- Green Team students made and distributed to all classrooms and teachers GOOS (Good On One Side) boxes for reusable one-sided paper.
- Two student Green Team members attended a staff meeting and spoke to teachers about increasing school recycling and how easy it is to recycle milk cartons.
- Twelve teachers collected empty milk cartons for recycling in their classrooms.
- The Green Team created "go green" posters and gave them to all teachers to hang in their classrooms.
- Green Team students created and conducted a PowerPoint presentation to educate students about climate change and what actions they could take to conserve natural resources.
- Green Team students created a commercial to share with the entire school about recycling and the environment, modeled on the "priceless" MasterCard commercial.
- The Green Team led a "biggest reducer" competition to increase awareness about reducing waste. The school-wide competition was between classrooms, and encouraged activities such as zero waste lunches and making double sided copies.
- Green Team students regularly checked all areas of the school to assess and report on waste reduction and recycling practices.