



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

North Bend Elementary School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: Snoqualmie

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2008

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

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- North Bend achieved a recycling rate of 47%.
- In 2009, 12 students from third- to fifth-grade classes formed the Groovin' Green Team led by teacher Meredith von Trapp.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were added to the lunchroom for milk



Green Team students - 2013



Green Team students - 2018

3. Teach others to take care of our water.



Wear Blue on Friday to show you care!

Wear blue for water day slide shared with the entire school



Recycle bin inventory team



cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans, and to classrooms for recyclable materials such as paper.

- The Green Team created an Earth Day display for the school called “Every Day is Earth Day...50 Ways to Reduce Your Ecological Footprint.”
- Teachers placed stickers provided by the Green Schools Program on all recycling bins showing what can be recycled.
- The school started a waste-free Wednesday campaign to encourage students to pack lunches from home in reusable or recyclable containers. Students created and presented skits in each classroom to share ideas for going waste free and to encourage participation.
- Green Team students presented 50 creative, inspiring ways to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Staff members taught students about recycling and students educated their peers about why recycling is important.
- Family volunteers wrote recycling articles for the newsletter and served as monitors in the lunchroom.
- The team used afternoon recess to conduct litter pickups and educate others about keeping the planet clean and healthy.
- Staff created reusable party kits for each classroom to include durable plates, bowls, silverware, cups, and napkins.



Green Team students receive durable water bottles from King County



Green Team collected and sorted bottle caps to create a mural of Mount Rainer

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers were placed near all light switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- North Bend Elementary conducted a school-wide challenge for students to pledge to reduce the amount of energy they use.
- The Green Team posted end of day checklists to help classrooms conserve energy.
- The school regularly provided energy conservation reminders and tips to students, staff, and families through morning announcements and emails.



Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The school used low-flow toilets and motion sensor faucets to conserve water.
- Green Team students regularly shared water conservation and pollution prevention tips and resources in announcements and in emails to staff.
- The Green Team conducted a water audit to measure faucet water flows and look for any leaks as well as standing water.
- In 2009, with the environmental education group Nature Vision, several fourth- and fifth-grade students built a native plant nature trail, including a butterfly garden, behind the school's portables.
- With the help of family volunteers, teacher Meredith Von Trapp designed a system for watering the school garden using captured water from the school's rain barrels.
- All fifth-grade classes participated in a walking field trip to investigate the ecological health of the Snoqualmie River through water chemistry and identification of macro-invertebrates. Students posted their results in a global database that promotes water conservation activities in schools around the world.
- Students conducted experiments outside by digging holes for compostable materials and analyzing the decomposition rates of different materials.
- The Green Team created a pledge form about conserving water and reducing the use of disposable plastic bottles and initiated a classroom challenge to get the most pledges completed.
- In the family newsletter, the school shared its water conservation goals and its success completing criteria for King County Level Three Green Schools.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The school sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Students created new 3-D posters showing what materials can be recycled, and displayed the posters in both the lunchroom and common areas.
- Green Team members monitored lunch cleanup and recycling.



- On Earth Day, the school shared videos with all students and staff to remind them what every person can do to take care of our earth.
- To encourage water conservation, the team posted conservation reminder notes on restroom mirrors and shared a video to explain the notes.
- Green Team members inventoried and cleaned all informational notes about energy conservation displayed on computers and lights.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school started an Animals and the Environment project to connect the concepts of waste reduction, recycling, and energy and water conservation to protection of local native animals. The project included a Green Team workshop and creation of interactive bulletin boards placed throughout the school.
- Teachers began using compostable K-cups in their Keurig coffee machines.
- The school designed and planned a Green Week with daily activities, announcements, and celebrations for the entire school.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The Green Team made several videos about how everyday conservation actions can help protect the environment.
- The school held an Earth Spirit month in April in which students learned about and participated in a different conservation action each week.
- Green Team students assessed the school's waste sorting practices and created new signs and sorting tools to share with their peers.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students met for 30 minutes every week to evaluate current conservation practices and to design solutions and improvements.
- They hosted an assembly and follow-up workshops to aid their outreach about waste reduction and about reducing contamination in recycling bins.
- Students collected and sorted bottle caps to create a mural of Mount Rainer.



- The school recycled ink cartridges and phone batteries for the community through Funding Factory, a free recycling fundraiser for schools and nonprofits that collect empty toner and inkjet printer cartridges.

Awards

- North Bend Elementary School received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2009.
- Teacher Meredith von Trapp received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015.