



## **Northstar Middle School and Emerson High School**

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Kirkland

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** January 2020

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2020

**Student Green Team recognition:** Received in June 2023

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Students and staff achieved a 43% recycling rate in the facility shared by Northstar Middle School and Emerson High School.
- A Green Schools Program representative met with the school's student environmental club and staff to help assess current practices.
- The school's monthly newsletter was used to share participation in the Green Schools Program, school waste reduction and recycling goals, and conservation practices with the school community.
- A student environmental club member collected data on the volume of recyclable materials generated at school. The data also included quantities of Ziploc bags and paper towels mistakenly placed in recycling bins. The data was shared in classrooms to educate students on what can and can't be placed in recycling bins.
- Teachers Lua Carlson and Dan Weiss included information about climate change in their lessons and taught students how waste contributes to global warming.
- In April 2020, Carlson's homeroom presented about climate change and how students can reduce carbon emissions by wasting less and reusing more.
- Weiss used the pesticide-free school garden as a teaching tool in science classes. Grass clippings and other compostable materials from school grounds were composted in the school's on-site composting bins.



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

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- Students designed “Green Cities” to be 100% sustainable and zero waste by 2050. They decided what materials to use, what they would recycle, and how garbage, recyclables, and compostables would be sustainably handled.
- Teachers used OneNote and PowerSchool instead of printing materials, and the school newsletter and newspaper were sent by email.
- Every classroom had a scratch paper folder to collect papers used only on one side so the blank sides could be used for scratch pads.
- Supplies as well as decorations for parties were saved and reused.
- Staff monitored chemical use in science labs and art rooms, and students learned about the proper use and disposal of two chemicals - bleach/sodium hypochlorite and vinegar/acetic acid - used at the school.

## **Student Green Team recognition – June 2023**

- With guidance from teacher and advisor Lua Carlson, the middle school Green Team of six students participated in Town Hall on Bikes.
- The team encouraged fellow students to bike, carpool, and bus to school.
- Three Green Team members worked together on a Climate Action News magazine.