



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Northwood Middle School

School district: Kent

School location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: February 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2023

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The principal, custodian, and student volunteers supported and improved the school's recycling program in the 2012-13 school year by:
 - making announcements
 - displaying posters
 - helping students learn how to sort their recyclable materials and garbage at cafeteria recycling stations.
- The school started a student Green Team or recycling club which met after school and during lunch.
- By May 2013, the school reached a recycling rate of 54%.
- To reduce food waste, students placed unopened, packaged lunch items on a food share table in the cafeteria, and other students could help themselves to those items.
- To reduce paper waste, office staff canceled unwanted newspaper and magazine subscriptions.
- Northwood conserves paper by making double-sided copies, writing on both sides, and using whiteboards and overhead projectors instead of paper hand-outs.
- Seventh- and eighth-grade students participated in King County classroom workshops to learn about conservation of resources and the importance of biodiversity.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school's student Climate Crew, including ten students in grades 7-8, created educational posters about sustainable practices, made announcements, cleaned up litter on school grounds, and created a video on how to correctly sort recyclable materials, compostable materials, and garbage.
- Energy conservation fliers based on the Green Schools Program Best Practices Guide for energy conservation were posted in every classroom.
- Climate Crew meetings focused on discussing what students can do at home and school to conserve energy and reduce waste. Members shared information with their peers.



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- Lights were turned off in unoccupied rooms, and daylight from open windows in classrooms was sometimes used instead of electrical lighting. Electronics were turned off when not in use.
- To reduce wasted food, the Communities in Schools room had an area where students could leave or take unwanted, unopened packaged snacks.
- To maintain its recycling practices, there were recycling bins in every room throughout the school with stickers from the Green Schools Program on each recycling bin.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The student Climate Crew researched and distributed information to students and staff about conserving water and how to prevent water pollution. The Crew created eye-catching posters, and distributed and posted fliers in classrooms.
- After school, the Climate Crew met regularly to collect litter on campus, and learned how litter can impact storm drains which then bring polluted water to local waterways.
- Most faucets at Northwood were motion activated.
- Staff reported any leaks or dripping faucets immediately to request repairs.