



Opstad Elementary School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: North Bend

Began participating in Green Schools Program: October 2019

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Four teachers, 10 third-grade students, and 10 fourth-grade students formed a Green Team in December 2019. Students met regularly to plan and promote improvements to school conservation practices.
- The Green Team created a short video for teachers to share with students on what items can be placed in recycling bins. The school provided weekly video updates on waste reduction and recycling practices, and shared success stories and best practices with the school community.
- Classroom recycling bins were emptied by students daily as part of their classroom jobs. All recycling bins were paired with a recycling poster showing what materials can be recycled.
- The team surveyed teachers about their interest in supporting conservation efforts. Teachers responded positively to having “Good On Other Side” (GOOS) boxes in their classrooms. Fourth-grade Green Team students made GOOS boxes and distributed them to classrooms.
- Third-grade Green Team students collected used Crayola markers and a parent volunteer sent the makers to Crayola to be recycled.
- To reduce cafeteria waste, two students shared videos on reusable containers for lunches brought from home.
- In Fall 2019, the school formed a work group with a district staff member to explore composting of paper towels. The group assessed staff interest through a questionnaire and learned there was strong support, then discussed logistics with teachers, custodians, and other schools in the district.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- A school custodian inventoried the list of toxic chemicals, assembled items that needed to be removed, and properly labeled all potentially hazardous materials.
- Opstad Elementary had a 39% recycling rate in October 2019. A follow-up recycling rate could not be calculated in spring 2020 due to COVID-19 school closures.