



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Pine Tree Elementary School

**School district:** Kent

**School location:** Kent

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2010

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2011

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Pine Tree Elementary increased its recycling rate from 23% to 40%.
- The school improved classroom recycling, and started to recycle cans, bottles, and milk cartons at both breakfast and lunch.
- School staff placed recycling stickers on classroom and lunchroom recycling bins. The school custodian and kitchen staff helped educate students about the new recycling process and made sure collection ran smoothly.
- After meals, students emptied their leftover milk and other liquids into collection buckets. Student Green Team helpers assisted fellow students.
- Student volunteers made sure recyclable materials from each classroom were emptied into blue collection bins in the central area.
- Pine Tree staff recycle their empty cans and bottles in the staff lounge, and supported student efforts to improve the school's waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Green tips were included regularly in the school newsletter.

### Comments

"We have recycled our milk cartons from classrooms for several months now. They are doing a great job and it sure makes my job easier picking up the lunch trash. Without a great leader like our Green Schools Program representative, we would not have gotten this far. She has the patience and persistence to get tasks done. Thank you for all the help. I know Pine Tree will move on with this program and do great things in the 'green' world." – Ray Arrington, custodian