

Rainier Middle School

School district: Auburn

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: January 2016

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2017

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in February 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Rainier Middle School achieved a recycling rate of 72%.
- Lunch room staff made announcements to teach that recycling was important at Rainier.
- The school started to collect food scraps and other compostable materials for transport to a regional composting facility, and students learned what materials can be composted.
- Green Team students made announcements twice each month, and created 20 posters about waste reduction and recycling to display around the school.
- Students helped revitalize and maintain the school garden.
- Cleanliness in school hallways and lunch room improved each week as recycling and proper sorting were promoted.
- To reduce wasted food, a food share table was set up where students could place unopened, packaged items from the school lunch program so other students could help themselves.
- Rainier Middle School reduced paper use by limiting paper handouts in class, making double-sided copies, and using email instead of paper copies.



Rainier students work to bring the garden back to life.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Green Team students shared an energy conservation fact or tip twice each month.
- Science Links classes studied energy use and created posters about energy conservation to hang around the school.
- In October of 2017, science class students calculated their carbon footprints and learned how to reduce their impact on the environment.
- To reduce the school's energy consumption, timers were installed on vending machine lights.
- Custodians helped conserve energy by closing exterior doors, windows, and blinds, and switching off lights and electronic equipment when not in use.