

Ridgecrest Elementary School

School district: Shoreline

School location: Shoreline

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
January 2014

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ridgecrest Elementary achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 50%.
- The school started to recycle empty milk cartons in its cafeteria, and a recycling bin was placed in every classroom and office.
- Students regularly emptied classroom recycling bins into larger hallway recycling bins, and head custodian Mr. Burke emptied hallway, office, and cafeteria recycling bins into outdoor recycling containers.
- The school created G.O.O.S. (Good on One Side) paper reuse boxes for each classroom, and collected used markers for recycling.
- Waste reduction and recycling education was provided through student council members, all-school assemblies, classroom presentations, and posters created by Green Team students.
- The student council created and performed a skit to remind students and staff about what materials can and cannot be recycled.
- The Green Team led lessons in each classroom about what can be recycled in classrooms and the cafeteria, and trained several students to serve as volunteer cafeteria recycling station monitors.



PTA Green Team display case located near school's front office.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Parent volunteer Missy Liu talked about waste reduction and recycling practices at a PTA meeting, and parents assisted students to monitor cafeteria recycling.
- Green Team members shared waste reduction and recycling actions and reminders regularly through weekly announcements.
- Ridgecrest installed a hallway display case to share the Green Team's efforts and successes as well as waste reduction and recycling tips.
- Student groups worked with the custodians to pick up litter during lunch.

Energy Conservation (Level One)

- Turn Off Lights and Turn Off Equipment signs from the Green Schools Program were placed near all light switches and computer pods to remind students and staff to turn off lights and equipment when not needed.
- The school shared energy conservation tips through regular morning announcements and in the school's newsletter.
- Teacher Liz Whitney included lessons in her curriculum about how energy conservation can help protect salmon.
- Whenever possible, daylight was used in classrooms instead of electric lights.
- Ridgecrest made regular announcements to encourage students and staff to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust thermostat.
- The Green Team helped the custodians check at the end of each day that all lights and equipment were turned off and all doors, windows, and blinds were shut to help keep heat in and conserve energy.
- Occupancy sensors were installed in all main restrooms to help conserve energy.

Award

Ridgecrest Elementary School received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015 for its effective recycling program.