



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

## Ridgewood Elementary School

**School district:** Kent

**School location:** Renton

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** October 2011

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2012

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ridgewood Elementary reached a recycling rate of 43%.
- In December 2011, King County provided a school assembly on waste reduction as a kick-off event for Green School efforts, and in February 2012, two fifth-grade classes and one sixth-grade class received King County's waste reduction and recycling classroom workshops.
- Sixth-grade students brainstormed ideas to promote waste reduction practices at the school.
- School principal Andy Song made PA announcements about waste reduction and recycling throughout the school year.
- Signs from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled were placed on all school recycling bins.
- To reduce paper use, one-sided paper reuse boxes were placed in every classroom. Students used the blank sides of the GOOS (Good on One Side) paper.
- Waste-free lunch campaigns focused on reducing wasted foods and beverages were held in the lunchroom.
- Students assisted head custodian Kelly Ehlert by collecting classroom recyclable materials and placing them in larger hallway recycling bins.
- As part of a district decision to reduce waste at lunch, the school eliminated straws and replaced plastic-wrapped utensils with loose utensils.