



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Sammamish High School

School district: Bellevue

School location: Bellevue

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in June 2009

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in May 2010

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in April 2011



Colorful graphics for the Environmental Warriors club at Sammamish High School.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Sammamish High School increased its recycling rate from 15% to 47%.
- Recycling bins were placed in all classrooms, offices, and cafeteria, and all recycling bins had signs showing what can and can't be recycled.
- The school started a new classroom recycling system which included large rolling recycling bins, provided by City of Bellevue and Allied Waste, placed in hallways.
- A video announcement illustrating what could be recycled was shown school-wide to reduce contamination in recycling bins.
- The student Green Team, along with the environmental club, Environmental Warriors, kicked-off a new cafeteria recycling system. This involved:
 - Placement of recycling bins in the cafeteria.
 - Student volunteers monitored each cafeteria bin each day for a week to educate students about what materials they could and could not recycle.
 - When students sorted lunch items correctly, student volunteers handed out pencils made from recycled newspaper. T-shirts were made and sold for "Green Week." The Audubon Society, City of Bellevue and Mercer Slough



Educational Center set up booths outside the cafeteria at lunch to get students excited about Green Week.

- A classroom recycling trivia competition was held.
- Two worm bins were started in classrooms to collect food scraps.
- To reduce paper use, all classrooms used smart boards and e-mail communication was used school-wide as much as possible.

Environmental education

- Students calculated their carbon footprints.
- Environmental Warriors produced a video about the school's recycling policy and procedures that was shown to the school during video announcements.
- The Environmental Warriors held two smoothie fundraising events, one on Earth Day and another during Advanced Placement testing week. Club members handled preparation, smoothie making, and cleanup.
- An edible garden was designed and planted in the school commons.
- On Earth Day the Environmental Warriors held an informational fair to promote locally produced foods, growing your own food, energy conservation, and recycling.
- The Environmental Warriors invited all Bellevue School District high school environmental clubs to a summit to discuss:
 - What each group accomplished this year
 - What each group is planning for next year
 - How the groups could pool their resources and collaborate the next year

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Environmental Warriors posted "lights off" stickers on all light switches.
- At a staff meeting, Club members shared suggestions with staff about how to reduce classroom energy use. The students informed staff that they would be conducting classroom energy audits.
- Environmental Warrior members conducted classroom energy audits after school. During the audits they looked for electrical equipment, including printers and lights,



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which had not been turned off. Students taped a “grade sheet” to the outside of the door with comments. After the audit, many teachers commented that they would like to receive a better grade next time.

- During the energy audits, Environmental Warrior members talked with staff individually and suggested ways they could reduce classroom energy use.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- To raise awareness about conserving water at school and at home, morning announcements were submitted every Monday to the front office and read to the school in conjunction with an announcement about the Environmental Warriors club.
- Students organized a pledge campaign in which students and staff were asked to sign pledges about conserving and protecting water at school and home.
- YMCA Earth Service Corps worked closely with the Environmental Warriors club to organize speakers and to participate in restoration projects in King County.
- The Advanced Placement Environmental Science class studied water conservation and water quality issues as part of its curriculum. The school’s green team – comprised of staff and students, including some students from the Environmental Warriors club – used the water conservation resource tub from the City of Bellevue.
- Students placed “turn water off” stickers by sinks throughout the school.
- Students put up posters throughout the school to promote water conservation.