



Sawyer Woods Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Black Diamond

Began participating in Green Schools Program: November 2011 for 2011-12, then again starting May 2019

Level One of the Green Schools Program: June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 56% recycling rate, thanks to each room in the school having a recycling bin next to a garbage bin, with signs from the Green Schools Program showing what materials could be placed in each bin.
- The 78-member student Green Team took turns daily in the cafeteria to ensure materials were sorted correctly into garbage and recycling bins. A leftover liquids bucket was set up so liquids would not contaminate the recyclable materials.
- Green Team Challenges were included in every Monday morning announcement to inspire students and staff to reduce, reuse, recycle, and take other steps to conserve natural resources.
- To reduce wasted food, Sawyer Woods set up a food share table in the cafeteria where students placed unopened, packaged foods from the school meal program which they did not want so other students could help themselves.
- To reduce paper towel waste, signs were placed on all paper towel dispensers asking the school community members to make only three or fewer pushes.
- To reduce single-use products, students created art and bird feeders using paper tubes and plastic water bottles.
- At the Celebration of Learning STEM night, the Green Team hosted a booth where attendees could practice sorting materials into “garbage” and “recyclables” and also could clean up ocean plastic by selecting alternative products.
- Green Team activities and school conservation achievements were included in the school newsletter, school social media, and school website.