



Sequoyah Middle School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: March 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2009

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in November 2010

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in February 2013

Sustaining Green School 2014-15: Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School 2017-18: Achieved in May 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Sequoyah Middle School achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 66% by focusing on classroom and lunchroom recycling and collection of food scraps and other compostable materials in the lunchroom.
- Recycling bins and signs from the Green Schools Program were set up in the school's lunchroom.
- Green Team students prepared waste reduction and recycling tips for the school's monthly newsletter.
- In school assemblies, the student Green Team demonstrated how to sort recyclable materials, compostable materials, and garbage. In 2014-15, an all-school assembly included a waste sorting competition.
- Every day, student leadership team members rotated to monitor lunchroom recycling, composting, and garbage sorting stations.
- Leadership classes engaged in environmental projects each quarter. In 2011-12, leadership classes led a campaign to encourage reuse practices such as refilling durable water bottles instead of buying single-use plastic water bottles. Durable water bottles decorated with the school's logo were sold to students.
- At the start of each school year, waste reduction, recycling, and sorting expectations were shared with students.



- Staff Green Schools' team members met monthly to set goals for waste reduction, recycling, wetlands restoration, and energy conservation. They pursued educational opportunities for themselves and their students, including attending conferences and workshops about conservation practices.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- While continuing its waste reduction and recycling practices, the school learned about energy conservation.
- Energy conservation tips and reminders were shared regularly through signs and announcements.
- Leadership classes conducted energy surveys, observed energy use throughout the school, and made suggestions for improvements.
- The school was involved in the Rebuild Haiti project. Students used webcams to communicate with Haitian students, engineers, and teachers three times each year to help them develop energy-friendly buildings as they rebuilt schools following the 2010 earthquake.
- To conserve energy, school thermostats were tested and adjusted.
- In the school newsletter, students shared information about dressing appropriately for the season rather than adjusting the thermostat.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The school added water conservation to its waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation habits.
- Leadership students posted messages about water conservation on the school's reader board and asked students to sign pledges to conserve water.
- Seventh-grade science classes completed a water cycle unit and created posters to hang in school hallways.
- Students completed a conservation survey developed by students at Skyview Junior High in Northshore School District.
- The school installed automatic shut-off faucets in restroom sinks. Kitchen staff monitored water use while maintaining health codes.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Sustaining Green School recognition

Sequoyah sustained and built on its Level One through Level Three practices. How the school accomplished this is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

The school hosted a “Clothes for Cause” textile recycling drive to raise funds and awareness among students and staff about textile recycling. Students collected approximately 6,000 pounds of unwanted textiles to be reused or repurposed to make other products such as rags.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

The student Environmental Club planned and carried out a Green Spirit week focused on five environmental issues. The event highlighted actions students could take each day at school to reduce, reuse, recycle, conserve energy, and conserve water.