

Sherwood Forest Elementary School

School district: Bellevue
School location: Bellevue

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2008



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

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- In the 2009-10 school year, the school began to collect food scraps and other compostable materials in the cafeteria at breakfast and lunch.
- Students placed recycling containers in all classrooms, offices, work spaces and common areas. On each recycling container, the students placed a recycling sticker that lists in English and Spanish what can and can't be recycled. The City of Bellevue, which partnered with the Green Schools Program to provide recycling assistance to Bellevue schools, provided the recycling containers and bilingual stickers.
- Students created a large bulletin board display near the cafeteria that included samples of items that can be recycled at the school.



- Students introduced a new program in the cafeteria in which students emptied their milk cartons before placing the empty carton in the recycling container. Pictures of items that can be recycled were posted on recycling bins.
- Student teams were established to empty classroom recycling containers daily.
- The school began to recycle batteries, cell phones and old printer cartridges. Refurbished printer cartridges are purchased.
- Recycled content paper is purchased for all types of paper used at the school.
- Durable dishes, cups, glassware, metal silverware and tablecloths were purchased to replace disposable products in the staff room.
- Paper used on one side is allocated as scrap paper for memos and notes.
- The students designed a Green Week that focused on raising awareness of the importance of waste reduction and recycling.
- Students patrolled hallways and the playground for litter and collected paper for recycling.
- Students learned and played environmental and recycling games during physical education classes and recess.
- All students attended an assembly program that encourages waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Cafeteria supervisors remind students to “only take what they can eat.”
- Unused and unopened food items were collected on a table in the cafeteria for sharing with students who wanted more.
- Lunch trays were stacked to increase garbage container capacity and to reduce frequency of pick-up.
- To reduce paper use, staff communication was handled via e-mail, and smart boards were used in classrooms.
- To encourage reducing use of paper towels, soap and water, the student Green Team created large posters with pictures and a clever rhyme, including the phrase: “1 flush is enough, 2 pumps for soap.”



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students created and led an energy patrol to help reduce energy use.
- During Earth Week the students focused on a different energy conservation practice each day.
- Window blinds are closed at end of each day to increase insulation.
- The school posted reminders to turn off lights.
- Lights were turned off in unoccupied rooms or when sufficient daylight was present.
- Electrical fixtures were dusted to improve efficiency.
- All rooms have motion sensors for lights and multiple switches for light levels.
- After-school activities are centralized in common areas.
- The student Green Team researched conservation information, and made posters and displays to educate the school community about composting and energy conservation.
- The third-grade participated in a classroom recycling workshop.
- Conservation topics were mentioned in several school-wide assemblies in which cooperation and individual responsibility were emphasized.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- The fourth-grade raised salmon and released them into the wild.
- The fifth-grade learned about watersheds.
- The school created raised beds and planted an edible garden.
- Rain barrels were installed and the collected rainwater was used to water the gardens.