



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Silver Lake Elementary School

**School district:** Federal Way

**School location:** Federal Way

**Began participating in the Green Schools**

**Program:** September 2012

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**

Achieved in May 2013

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school increased its recycling rate from 20% to 44%.
- Silver Lake began collecting recyclable and compostable materials in its lunchroom and staff lounge. Thanks to improved recycling practices, Silver Lake decreased its garbage collection service from an 8-yard dumpster to a 6-yard dumpster. The school added two 96-gallon food waste carts so compostable materials could be collected and transported to a composting facility.
- Students used personal white boards in the classroom to reduce paper use.
- Administrative assistant Paul Reid led an 11-member Green Schools' team comprised of teachers, custodian, librarian, and lunchroom staff. The team oversaw and contributed to the school's conservation efforts.
- The school communicated its waste reduction and recycling actions and successes in parent newsletters, staff memos, and PA announcements.
- In fall 2012, the school started a student Green Team. The members placed signs next to all recycling and garbage bins, and educated students and staff about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Green Team members wore King County Green Team aprons to identify themselves as recycling station monitors as they helped fellow students sort correctly after breakfast and lunch.



Silver Lake staff members accept King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2013.



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- In 2012-13, Silver Lake received the King County elementary school assembly program and classroom workshops to educate students about waste reduction, recycling, and habitat stewardship.

## **Award**

Silver Lake Elementary received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in April 2013 for its waste reduction and recycling program.