



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Skyview Middle School *(formerly called Skyview Junior High)*

School district: Northshore

School location: Bothell

Began to participate in the Green Schools Program: 2007

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

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2012

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Skyview achieved a recycling rate of 65%.
- The school placed recycling bins in every classroom, office, breakroom, and common area, along with recycling signs from the Green Schools Program above each bin.
- In 2011, the school began collecting recyclable and compostable materials, including food scraps and food-soiled paper products, in its lunchroom and kitchen.
- Teacher Tom Nowak organized a student and staff team to plan collection of compostable materials.
- Polystyrene, also known as Styrofoam, was eliminated in the lunchroom and instead compostable serving-ware was used.



Skyview students check fullness of outdoor recycling container to estimate the school's recycling rate



Students restore native habitat in Skyview's Outdoor Learning Center by removing invasive plants and planting native plants



- Daily announcements were made over the PA system about recycling and how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- Skyview continued and expanded its waste reduction practices, including durable lunch trays and bulk condiment dispensers in the lunchroom, double-sided printing and copying, and use of the blank sides of paper used only on one side.
- The school used skits, assemblies, bulletins, and staff meeting announcements to share and encourage waste reduction and other conservation messages.
- At the start of the year, recycling practices were introduced to incoming seventh-grade students and returning students were reminded about conservation practices. With teacher John Schmied's leadership, science classes regularly shared waste reduction and recycling strategies.
- Green Team members worked with staff to buy recycled-content paper, refillable white board markers, and recyclable toner cartridges whenever cost-competitive.
- The school received credit from the district for its increased recycling rate and used the credit to help buy recycled-content paper and to expand its Outdoor Learning Center activities.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Skyview located baseline data for its gas and electrical use.
- Energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs were installed throughout the school.
- "Turn off Lights" signs from the Green Schools Program were placed near all classroom switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not needed.
- In 2010, Skyview, in conjunction with Northshore Capital Projects and the district's consultant McKinstry, submitted a proposal and was granted a \$46,000 solar array, data tracking system, and alternative energy curriculum from Snohomish PUD's Planet Power Program.
- In 2012, a transportation survey showed that 79.75% of Skyview students walk, bike, bus, or carpool to school. This data was used to kick off a campaign to promote walking, biking, busing and carpooling.



Water Conservation (Level Three)

- In 2011-12, Skyview's Green Team continued educating the school community about reducing waste, recycling, composting, and energy conservation, while learning about water conservation and water pollution prevention practices. The Green Team turned into a Bothell Blue Team for half the school year.
- A "Puget Sound Starts Here" poster campaign built awareness of the need to keep the local environment clean to sustain the Puget Sound.
- The Blue Team monitored water quality in nearby wetlands and reported results to the World Water Monitoring Network.
- The school's constructed wetlands were expanded to retain more water, to include 50 yards of permeable trails, and to be re-vegetated with native plants.
- Skyview science teachers created a Water Resources, Water Quality, and Salmon unit which all 300 seventh-grade students completed in 2011-12.
- Students researched and learned about the world's water crisis and made recommendations to address those issues.
- Blue Team members measured water flow of all faucets in the school and posted water conservation signs from the Green Schools Program near all sinks.
- Skyview participated in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County pilot Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program in 2008-09.
- John Schmied, Green Team leader and Skyview's former chemical hygiene officer, helped the district eliminate or reduce hazards from cleaning supplies, science lab chemicals, and art supplies. This included clean-out of art, technology, and science rooms in all 10 secondary schools in the district.

Environmental education

- In 2009, seventh-grade curriculum included assignments to hold family meetings to complete EPA's carbon and water footprint surveys and an Earth Day Family Sustainability Action plan.
- Skyview expanded its Outdoor Environmental Learning Center to provide hands-on experience in trail maintenance and restoration of native habitat, including designing and digging wetlands, removing invasive plants, and planting native plants.



- From 2008-2010, Skyview students and families performed over 900 hours of community service, including caring for Skyview’s Outdoor Learning Center. Skyview families and Eastside Garden Club donated \$1,600 for the Outdoor Learning Center.
- Skyview teachers developed “grounding” curriculum activities to engage seventh-grade students in learning about the paths taken by garbage, recyclables, yard waste, drinking water, wastewater, natural gas, and electricity in their homes.
- In 2011-12, Skyview created the following Eco-Schools mission statement Declaration of Green Dependence: We the students/staff of SJH resolve to
 - R = Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle to lower our footprint
 - E = Conserve Energy
 - S = Sustain our school grounds
 - P = Protect our watershed
 - E = be Environmentally conscious
 - C = Compost properly
 - T = Transport by bus and carpool

Sustaining Green School recognition

Skyview sustained and built on its Level One through Level Three practices. How the school accomplished this in each school year is detailed below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- In its Outdoor Learning Center, the school completed trail maintenance to keep erosion in check and trails in shape for student use. The school constructed an outdoor classroom in 2016-17.
- Conservation successes were shared with the school and community via social media and through an end of year recognition assembly.



Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Green Team students maintained a bin for food waste and paper towels in each classroom. The compostable materials were sent to a regional composting facility.
- Green Team members monitored sorting stations and recorded areas needing improvement. Based on the results, students helped design messages, training, and announcements to correct sorting errors.
- The Green Team created and posted informational signs above all sorting stations to educate students and staff on how to sort.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team members helped custodians empty indoor recycling and compost bins.
- Sixth-grade students studied the impacts of human population growth on the environment. Seventh-grade students examined their everyday choices to conserve water, reduce carbon footprint, and restore habitat, then quantitatively analyzed impacts before and after each change.

Awards

- In March 2013, Skyview received the U.S. Green Ribbon School award for reducing environmental impacts, including waste reduction, energy conservation, water conservation, health and wellness programs, and environmental education.
- Teacher Tom Nowak received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.
- Skyview was named a Washington State Green Leader School for its Pillar 3 (Environmental and Sustainability education) programs in 2012.
- In 2012, Skyview was the first school in Washington State to achieve the Northwest Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools Silver Award.
- Skyview's Sustainability Team received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2009.
- John Schmied, former teacher, received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2007.