



Snoqualmie Elementary School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: Snoqualmie

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
March 2007

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

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

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

Sustaining Green School recognition: Achieved for

- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19

Student Green Team recognition: Multiple years

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Snoqualmie Elementary reached and maintained a recycling rate of 63% by expanding classroom recycling and starting lunchtime recycling.
- The Green Team started waste-free Wednesdays to encourage students to bring durable and recyclable lunch containers from home. Lunchroom garbage volumes were cut by 80% on those Wednesdays.
- Staff worked with the district to eliminate single-use plastic utensils, clam shells, and polystyrene (also called Styrofoam) bowls in the lunchroom.



Teacher Jennifer Gjurasic receives King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2013



The school set up recycling bins and signs for its June 2009 field day



Earth Hero at School 2008



- Thanks to increased waste reduction and recycling, the school downsized its garbage collection service to one 8-yard container.
- In 2009, teachers led a reusable bag and reusable water bottle campaign as a school fundraiser.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were placed in classrooms to collect paper and other recyclable materials, and to the lunchroom to collect empty milk cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans.
- On all indoor recycling bins, school staff placed recycling stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled.
- All classrooms participated in the school-wide recycling program.
- With the help of district groundskeepers, garbage and recycling bins were placed side by side in key areas on school grounds.
- Kitchen staff started to recycle empty steel cans.
- Students created paper reuse boxes for classrooms for paper used on one side only, helped with recycling collection, and worked on litter reduction campaigns.
- The school reduced paper use by sending its family newsletter electronically and adopting two math programs allowing students to complete tests and assignments online. In 2012, the district installed a Paper Cut program to track the number of copies made from every computer. To limit paper handouts, teachers instead used technology whenever possible.
- The school collected plastic bags, eyeglasses, cell phones, printer cartridges, and glue sticks for reuse or recycling by special programs that handle those materials.
- The Green Team made a presentation to the school board about the school's waste reduction and recycling successes.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed near all light switches to remind students, staff, and visitors to turn off the lights when not in use.
- The school conducted a challenge for students to pledge to reduce the amount of energy they use at school and at home.
- A student energy monitor in each classroom helped turn off unnecessary electronics and lights in unoccupied rooms.



- The school reduced energy use by installing automatic computer shutdowns at the end of every school day.
- End of the day checklists helped each classroom to conserve energy by turning off lights and closing blinds to keep heat/cooling in the building.
- The Green Team conducted a no-idling campaign. Students made signs, talked with family drivers about turning off engines when picking up and dropping off children, and included information in school newsletters about why and how to avoid idling.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Water conservation signs from the Green Schools Program were posted above all classroom and restroom sinks.
- Teachers included water conservation topics in their lesson plans.
- The Green Team created a water conservation pledge which students took home to discuss and sign with their families. Students who returned the signed pledge received a green leaf to place on the school's "green tree," a wall display in the shape of a tree to showcase student pledges.
- The school nurse presented to classes about the importance of washing hands and reminded students to conserve water by turning off the faucet while soaping hands and after rinsing.
- All old fixtures were replaced with water-efficient fixtures. Leaky faucets were immediately reported for repair to custodian Greg Rutledge.
- In May 2013, students went on a field trip to the school's wetlands to view invertebrates and test the water quality.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The school was recognized as a Sustaining Green School by sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.



Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The Green Team spent time in the lunchroom reminding students how to sort correctly, and students used the school intercom twice each month to talk about what can and can't be recycled at school.
- The school promoted waste-free Wednesdays and Green Team students rewarded students that brought waste-free lunches from home.
- Students created posters about waste reduction and reuse practices and placed the posters throughout the school. They made sure every classroom had a GOOS (Good-on-one-side) bin for paper that had been used only on one side.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Students created four short videos focusing on different aspects of waste reduction. The students presented the videos in all classrooms.
- Green Team members visited each classroom on Friday afternoons to remind teachers to turn off their lights and computers.
- Emails were sent to staff reminding them about the school's green practices and how they connect to what they were teaching in the classroom
- Once a month, Green Team members took turns standing in bathrooms to help remind younger students about turning the water off when washing their hands.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Environmental topics were integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels.
 - First-grade students studied the sun, moon, and stars, and made observations about the environment.
 - Second-grade students examined life cycles and rocks.
 - Third-grade students studied the sun, moon, stars, weather, and salmon habitats.
 - Fourth-grade students studied the solar system and structures of life including crayfish and shrimp.
 - Fifth-grade students learned about the earth's changing surfaces, and studied heredity and adaptation.
- The Green Team wrote and performed a new recycling song, and created and displayed ladybug magnets made out of repurposed materials.



Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students worked on plastic pollution reduction projects.
 - Students collected old Lysol and similar containers and decorated them to be used as plastic bag holders. They delivered a plastic bag holder to each classroom and explained why it is important to avoid or reuse plastic bags so they do not become litter or end up in a landfill or ocean.
 - Students created a slideshow for every teacher to show in their class.
 - Each student created an art piece with used bottle caps and shared information with their families about how to reduce plastic pollution.

Awards

- Teacher Jennifer Gjurasic received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2013.
- The school received a King County Earth Hero at School award in 2009 for achieving a culture of environmental stewardship where conservation is a daily practice and part of the school curriculum, and for encouraging other schools in the district to do the same.
- The school received a King County Earth Hero at School award in 2008.