



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Soos Creek Elementary School

School district: Kent

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:

September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in May 2011

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:

Achieved in May 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Reducing, reusing, and recycling became common practices at Soos Creek.
- The school increased its recycling rate from 20% to 50%, and maintained that rate through 2011-12.
- Custodian Ray Arrington supported the recycling program by training other staff and reminding students what can be recycled.
- The school improved classroom recycling and started to recycle empty cans, bottles, and milk cartons at lunch.
- Staff bulletins were sent electronically and teachers were asked to save them electronically instead of printing.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2011-12, custodian Ray Arrington started a student Green Team. Team members designed and posted signs to remind the school community to conserve energy by turning out lights in unoccupied rooms.



Student empties classroom recycling bins into larger recycling container.



Student empties leftover milk in sink before placing carton in recycling bucket



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- Hall lights were not turned on until just before school started, resulting in less energy consumption and longer bulb life.
- Staff were asked to turn out lights when they leave rooms, keep vents clear so heating and cooling systems could work properly, and avoid propping doors open.

Comment

“Coordinated efforts between Soos Creek and King County Green Schools Program resulted in one less trash pick-up per week and increased recycling. Students are especially proud of the milk carton recycling program in classrooms.”

– **Patty Drobny, principal**