

St. Bernadette Parish School

School district: Private

School location: Burien

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2016

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in February 2018

Sustaining Green School recognition: Achieved for

- 2018-19
- 2019-20

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

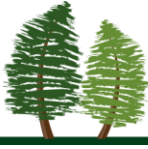
- The school achieved a recycling rate of 67%.
- St. Bernadette replaced disposable trays and utensils with durable trays and utensils at lunch.
- Green Team students created G.O.O.S. (Good on One Side) boxes for classrooms to collect paper used only on one side, so the blank sides could be used.
- A recycling bin with a sign was placed next to each garbage bin in all classrooms and offices.
- Milk carton recycling was promoted in morning announcements.
- After starting milk carton recycling, total monthly recycling volume increased from 9.45 cubic yards to 16.8 cubic yards.



Good on One Side (G.O.O.S) boxes for classroom paper reuse, made by student Green Team members



Students shared art made from used plastic wrappers to raise awareness about ocean plastic pollution.



King County Green Schools Program

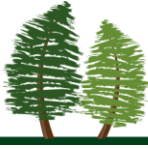
Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Sixth-grade students emptied recycling bins each day.
- In winter 2013, a Green Team of eight students in grades K-8 created posters that showcased how to be green during the holidays.
- Green Team successes, events, and tips were shared through the school's website and the Wednesday Note, the weekly family newsletter.
- The school received the King County assembly and classroom workshops to educate students and staff about waste reduction, recycling, and habitat stewardship.
- Principal Carol Mendoza issued a paper use report three times each year and discussed individual paper use with each teacher.
- The school participated in grass-cycling on its lawn and athletic fields.
- The Parent Club organized cell phone recycling events to encourage recycling of electronic equipment.
- In 2015-16, to strengthen education about recycling, students created and posted three-dimensional signs with actual recyclable materials.
- Staff received an email at the beginning of each school year as a reminder about school-wide recycling and waste reduction practices. Teachers modeled waste reduction and recycling practices.
- New signs from the Green Schools Program replaced older versions, and were placed on all recycling bins.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Signs encouraging students and staff members to turn off lights and electronics when not in use were posted throughout the school.
- Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather so that they would be comfortable with the school's standard temperature settings.
- The school shared energy conservation tips in the school's family newsletter.
- Seattle City Light presented its Shrinking Bigfoot energy conservation classroom lesson to students.
- After-school activities were consolidated into specific areas of the school to conserve energy in unused spaces.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In fall 2016, energy and water conservation tips were added to monthly parent and teacher newsletters to increase awareness about conservation practices.
- The Green Team created posters to remind students and staff to turn off computers when not in use.
- In 2017, St. Bernadette received a grant to update all school lighting fixtures to increase energy efficiency.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

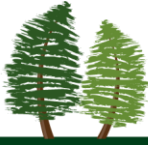
- A water conservation and pollution prevention “Tip of the Month” written by Green Team students was shared in the monthly family newsletter and school bulletin.
- With help from Puget Sound Partnership, the school added "Puget Sound Starts Here" plaques to all storm drains on school grounds.
- The Green Team created and posted water conservation pledges made by students.
- In spring 2017, St. Bernadette students took a field trip to a local watershed and explored the path storm water takes from their school to Puget Sound. Students learned about storm water pollution and how to prevent it at home and school.
- To conserve water, maintenance staff positioned sprinklers to water lawns and not pavement.
- Drought tolerant plants were planted on school grounds. Sports fields were the only lawn covered areas on the school campus.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The school continued and built 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 2018-19

- In fall 2018, Green Team students participated in a waste reduction and recycling training conducted by the Green Schools Program where students learned how to sort waste correctly, choose reusable alternatives, and pack a waste-free lunch.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The school installed a water bottle refilling station to conserve water and reduce waste from disposable plastic bottles.
- During end of year holidays, the Green Team organized a used toy drive for children and families in need.
- Students conducted a waste audit to assess the volume and composition of school waste and to measure contamination rates by identifying commonly missorted items. Results were shared with the school during morning announcements.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Green Team students hosted a used toy drive in which 150 used toys in good condition were donated to St. Vincent de Paul.
- In their curriculum, second- and third-grade students learned about water resources, the water cycle, and why water conservation is important.
- Green Team students learned how they can conserve energy at home and school, and shared information in their homes and classrooms.
- Students participated in a King County Green Schools assembly and classroom workshops to learn about waste reduction and recycling.
- Green Team students learned about ocean plastic pollution and [the Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) during a Green Team workshop provided by King County. Students created ocean animal art using plastic wrappers and packaging.
- A student art project connected students to classroom curriculum about habitats, ecosystems, and animal species. Students displayed their artwork in the school's main hallway and posted tips for using reusable products to reduce waste.
- In April 2020, in a Green Team Zoom meeting to celebrate Earth Day, teacher Hayley Bazinet shared actions students can take to protect the earth. Principal Eve Ruis used Weekly Wednesday digital announcements to share Earth Day tips for reducing waste, conserving energy and water, and protecting habitats.