



St. Francis of Assisi

School district: Private

School location: Unincorporated King County – Burien area

Participation in the Green Schools Program: 2004 - 2006

Note: St. Francis of Assisi participated in the Green Schools Program before program level recognition was included in the program.

Waste reduction and recycling actions

- The school set a goal of reducing paper use by 20% within one year. In 2004, the school used 904 reams of paper. In 2005, it used 734 reams - an 18.8% reduction. How did the school accomplish this reduction?
 - Teachers sent family communications by e-mail.
 - The school office used email to notify families of upcoming events.
 - Local businesses and families donated paper used only on one side so students could use the other side for worksheets and art projects.
- The school increased its recycling rate from 44% to 55% by:
 - Forming a recycling team of fourth-, seventh- and eighth- grade students, with a teacher facilitator, to improve recycling and promote waste reduction and recycling practices throughout the school.
 - Reducing trash in recycling bins.
 - Setting up recycling for fluorescent bulbs and printer cartridges.
- St. Francis held an all-school assembly to teach students about ways they could be responsible stewards of the environment.
- The school participated in several King County classroom workshops, including Smart Shopping, Recycling Leadership, and Habitat Stewardship.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Energy conservation actions

With Puget Sound Energy help, the school replaced a 50-year-old boiler with a natural gas boiler, and reduced annual consumption of natural gas by 2,500 therms.

Water conservation actions

- The school participated in an audit to examine efficiency of the school's use of water and to monitor meter reading practices.
- Through the audit, multiple errors were detected in the local water district's reading of the school facilities' meter.
 - This resulted in **an \$11,000 refund** from the water district.

Comment

“Our partnership with King County Green Schools Program was important to our school. We formed this partnership because the program's mission aligned with our school mission and philosophy, which calls on us to create an environment of respect and responsibility for oneself and for our global community. We want our students and their families to understand our interrelationship with the planet and the global community.” - Sheila Keaton, Principal, St. Francis of Assisi, 2005