



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

St. Luke School

School district: Private

School location: Shoreline

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
March 2012

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

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

Sustaining Green School: Achieved in

- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2022-23

Student Green Team recognition: Multiple years, including for 2022-2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- St. Luke School achieved a recycling rate of 61%, then increased it to 68%.
- The Girl Scouts at St. Luke School conducted a waste audit with Recology, the school's recycling hauler.
- In 2012, with help from King County Green Schools Program, St. Luke School started lunchroom collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- In fall 2012, the school received the King County waste reduction and recycling assembly and classroom workshops to help educate students and staff.



Girl Scouts at St. Luke created signs to post above lunchroom bins and helped their peers to sort.



Signs remind students to 'hold it low and pour slow' when emptying leftover liquids at lunch.



School garden established in 2015



St. Luke's Learning Garden



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- In 2012-13, the school increased its recycling rate from 26% to 61%, reduced its garbage dumpster from 8 to 6 yards, and increased its recycling dumpster from 4 to 8 yards.
- Parents, staff, and students made announcements, created posters, and volunteered as lunchroom monitors to educate the school how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- To reduce waste, St. Luke began a waste-free lunch campaign. For the first waste-free day, lunchroom waste bins were 80% less full than on an average day.
- In 2014-15, the school began collecting compostable materials in its staff room. The compost container was regularly emptied by teachers.
- In 2016, St. Luke started a collection box in the front office for old Scrip cards. The Scrip cards were taken to Best Buy to be recycled.
- St. Luke School began composting at snack time in classrooms to collect food scraps and food-soiled paper. Fifth-graders emptied small compost buckets each day into lunchroom compost bins. All compostable materials were collected weekly by the school's hauler and transported to Cedar Grove Composting facility.
- To remind students what can be recycled and collected for composting, the school posted signs above each recycling and waste station.
- Students monitored lunchroom recycling stations, and helped with collection of food scraps and other compostable materials.
- The school placed recycling and compost bins in the parish and kitchen areas along with educational signs for parish members.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school continued its waste reduction and recycling practices, while taking steps to conserve energy use at school.
- In 2016, the Student Council made videos about energy conservation and showed them during lunch.
- "Turn off the lights" signs were placed near light switches and "turn off equipment" signs near electric equipment to remind students and staff to turn off lights and computers when they are not needed.
- Energy conservation announcements were included in student take-home packets.
- Classroom monitors checked individual classrooms to make sure that lights and equipment were turned off and blinds were closed to conserve energy.



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- School announcements on Mondays included reminders to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and turn off equipment at the end of the school day.
- The school committed to replacing bulbs with Energy Star LED or fluorescent bulbs when bulbs need to be replaced.
- In April 2015, the school conducted "Black Fridays" when lights were turned off as much as possible to reduce energy use. A Day of No Power was held where students and staff were asked to unplug electronics and leave classroom lights and equipment off for the entire day.
- Classrooms used daylight instead of electric lights whenever possible.
- Teachers and other staff made sure windows and doors were not left open when heating and cooling was on. The head custodian followed weekend and vacation shutdown procedures.
- Seventh- and eighth-graders participated in climate change education programs provided by Seattle City Light.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- St. Luke maintained and improved its waste reduction and recycling practices. The school installed filling stations for reusable water bottles, and families were asked to bring reusable bottles to the annual walk-a-thon. Single-use plastic water bottles were not provided at the event.
- Water conservation announcements were made throughout the school year
- In Thursday packets for parents included announcements about water conservation practices, such as taking short showers and turning off water while brushing teeth.
- St. Luke ran a water conservation pledge campaign in April. Students and parents pledged to conserve water by committing to one or more water conservation actions. Pledges were displayed on rain droplets and hung up near the auditorium.
- "Turn Off Faucet" signs were placed near faucets in classrooms where applicable to remind students and staff to turn off the water when soaping hands or not in use.
- The school participated in the North City Water District fix-a-leak program that encouraged students and staff to conserve water at home and at school. Students measured the flow of school faucets, staff checked for leaks and standing water quarterly, and facilities staff fixed leaks or standing water. Students also were encouraged to test their home toilets for leaks.



- Brown Bear Carwash tickets were sold as a fundraiser for the school because the Carwash used eco-friendly detergents, trapped dirt and pollutants that otherwise go into waterways, and used less water compared to hand washing.
- Fifth-grade students learned about water conservation at a field trip to Island Wood and eighth-grade students studied water use around the world, examined their own water use, and committed to reducing water use at home and at school.

Sustaining Green School recognition

To receive recognition as a Sustaining Green School, St. Luke School sustained 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 built on Level One through Level Three practices each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- In 2016, St. Luke created a school garden and a garden education program with Seattle Tilth. Three worm bins were set up and maintained in the garden. The first harvest of vegetables was shared at a school lunch.
- St. Luke Cub Scouts winterized the garden beds and cleaned up the garden to get it ready for the spring. Raised garden beds and worm bins were maintained. In Oct. 2016, St. Luke School held a harvest sale of the garden's vegetables, and proceeds were used to buy garden supplies.



Students shared what they learned about growing vegetables. Each grade level led families on garden tours.

- In preschool through middle school, students continued its school garden education with Tilth Alliance. Preschoolers planted seeds and learned about



worms and how they relate to healthy soil in the garden. Third- and fourth-grade students studied the impact over time of people bringing food seeds and plants with them from other areas. Middle school students learned about the seed drill invention, crop rotation, and how large farms impacted small farms.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school maintained a fully functional native plant and vegetable garden with an educational worm bin and an automatic sprinkler system to help conserve water.
- The principal and IB design teacher attended a solar panel class led by City of Shoreline and the city's solar partners to learn about adding solar panels to the roof of the school and church.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

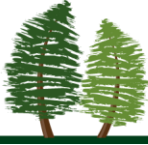
- With help from students, the school built and installed a Foody brand [hydroponic tower garden](#) as an educational tool.



Completed and lit up hydroponic garden.



- Fifth-grade students learned about worm bins, how to weigh food scraps, and feed the worms. They also learned about how to reduce food waste.



Sustaining Green School 2022-2023

- In fall 2022, announcements were made at each lunch (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grades) on how to sort garbage, recyclable materials, and compostable materials. A student stationed at each type of bin made sure the correct materials were placed in each.
- Fourth-grade students emptied classroom compost bins into a larger food scraps and food-soiled paper bin every day.
- The seventh-grade Compost Team managed the school garden worm bin by collecting and weighing fruit and vegetable scraps from lunches before adding those materials to the worm bin.
- Two groups of fifth-grade students decided to focus on ocean pollution, organized a beach clean-up for Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, and created presentations to educate the school community about water pollution and conservation.



- To reduce waste, the school maintained its water bottle filling stations for durable bottles, and paper used only on one side was collected in classrooms and teacher workrooms so the blank sides could be used.
- The school maintained “turn off lights” stickers on turning off lights in unoccupied rooms and restroom signs to remind students and staff to be mindful of water use.
- In weekly newsletters, teachers shared how students sustained green practices.

Awards

- St. Luke School received the King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2013.
- Teacher Paula Konrady and parent volunteer Maria Kearney received King County Earth Heroes at School awards in 2015.
- Alicia Sullivan, marketing, received a King County Earth Heroes award in 2016.