



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Star Lake Elementary School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
May 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- “Star Lake is Going Green” was the theme to encourage staff and students to take steps to protect the environment.
- From May 2010 to May 2011, the Star Lake student Green Team helped make significant changes in how the school thinks about and treats the environment.
- Star Lake’s recycling rate increased from 27% to 35% percent, thanks to promotion of classroom recycling and a new lunchroom program to collect food scraps for composting at a regional composting facility, and to collect plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and milk and juice cartons to be recycled.
- Thanks to these efforts, the school’s garbage dumpster size was reduced and garbage service costs decreased by 25%.
- Star Lake students and staff created signs to help students understand what items can be composted and recycled – and how these practices save natural resources.
- Students took the recycling skills learned at school and then shared and practiced them at home.



Students at Star Lake recycle in lunchroom



Recycling bins in Star Lake’s lunchroom



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- The Green Team shared Star Lake’s conservation successes with families through the school newsletter. In the newsletter, the team also included tips on how the community can become better stewards of the environment.

Comment

“Students at Star Lake are excited to be making the world a better and cleaner place to live.” – Jaime Baune, teacher