



Summit Trail Middle School (formerly Tahoma Junior High)

School district: Tahoma

School location: Ravensdale

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
February 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in March 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2010

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

Sustaining Green School: Achieved in

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Summit Trail achieved and maintained a 58% recycling rate.
- The school improved classroom recycling, started lunchroom recycling, and began to collect compostable trays, food scraps, and food-soiled paper to be transported to a regional composting facility.
- To promote recycling and composting, Green Team students created a video that was shown in all classrooms. Each week, the team shared school announcements about reducing waste and recycling.



The school displayed its energy conservation successes



The Green Team built and maintained a worm bin to help students learn about composting



Green Team students practiced sorting materials



- Each fall, staff listened to a student Green Team presentation about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- In the lunchroom, staff and family volunteers helped students sort garbage, recyclable materials, and organics.
- In 2010-2011 the Green Team created videos and shared announcements to promote a “waste-free” lunch once each month. Students were encouraged to use reusable lunch boxes, containers, and water bottles, and received a ticket on waste-free lunch days if they did so. The ticket was for a drawing for a reusable water bottle.
- Green Team students set up a food share table in the lunchroom for unopened packaged foods from the lunch program for others to eat. They created a video to promote the food share table.
- The Green Team collaborated with drama students to create a video on how to sort recyclable materials, food scraps and other compostable materials, and garbage.
- To influence school culture, the student Green Team planned and held Earth Week events each year, and included poster contests, sorting games, and a raffle for Earth friendly T-shirts. To enter the raffle, students pledged to recycle as much as possible. Pledges were posted in the school entrance. The winning logo design from a school-wide recycling competition was printed on T-shirts.
- Students collected bottle caps for a bottle cap art project and foil juice pouches were sent to TerraCycle, a company that uses them to make new products.
- Green Team members and teachers created a schedule for emptying classroom recycling bins, and 3-dimensional posters showing actual examples of items commonly thrown in the wrong bin.
- During fall 2017, students conducted a survey to ensure all classrooms, office spaces, and common areas had recycling bins and signs.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Emails reminders and student led “power patrols” were conducted regularly to help ensure lights and equipment were turned off when not in use.
- All staff were asked to restrict use of personal heaters, refrigerators, and other appliances in offices and classrooms.
- Four Green Team students conducted a monthly energy audit of each classroom and educated staff on ways to reduce energy use.
- Incandescent bulbs were replaced by Energy Star-rated fluorescent bulbs throughout the school.
- Students studied energy use choices in science classes and weighed the pros and cons of various energy sources.
- Green Team students shared energy conservation facts and practices during weekly announcements to encourage staff and students to conserve energy.
- "Turn Off Lights" and "Turn Off Equipment" signs and stickers were placed in all classrooms and offices and a People, Power, Planet (PPP) display board was shown in the hallway.
- Students shared educational PowerPoints at lunch and during Earth Week in April and promoted participation in Earth Hour in March.
- In 2017, the Green Team encouraged students to pledge to be environmentally conscious by conserving energy via the PPP pledge.
- The school’s energy use and costs were tracked by McKinstry, the district’s resource conservation management company.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Facts about water conservation were read each month over the intercom.
- In 2013, the school installed water bottle refilling stations.
- During Earth Week in April, one day was devoted to water conservation. Students signed a pledge to select three ways they would conserve water at home, and participated in games to answer questions on how to conserve water.
- In the Sounding off on Puget Sound unit, science students learned about the importance of water as a resource and went on a field trip to Seattle Aquarium.



- Students took a pledge to save water by taking shorter showers and using reusable water bottles.
- Eighth-grade science students designed a biosphere that could support three to four people. Design considerations included the needs of people, plants, and animals and the impacts of each on the environment.
- Students helped plant and maintain two rain gardens in the front of the school to help collect and filter storm water runoff.
- Classes visited the rain garden to learn about water conservation methods from the garden's educational signs and lectures about how the garden works.
- In ninth-grade science classes, students completed an in-depth study of the Cedar River Watershed, including two field trips to the Cedar River to examine water quality by sampling macro-invertebrates and studying water chemistry.
- The school's water use and costs were tracked by McKinstry.
- Staff were asked to conserve water in classrooms and to report leaks to maintenance.

Sustaining Green School Recognition

The school was recognized as a Sustaining Green School for sustaining and building 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 2014-15

- The school participated in McKinstry's People, Power, Planet (PPP) Program. Green Team students made announcements about waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation, posted an energy use checklist in each classroom and office, and created a Green Team bulletin board to display energy savings.
- The school reduced energy by 5%. Energy reduction successes were shared in classroom announcements and school newsletters.



Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The Green Team collected dried out markers and sent them to Crayola ColorCycle program which used them to make new markers. The Green Team started recycling ink cartridges.
- The school created a video about what happens to ink cartridges when they are empty and how long they take to decompose. The video encouraged all schools in Tahoma School District to recycle ink cartridges and toner.
- The school continued to participate in the PPP program, earning 84 power points by conducting classroom energy audits, creating educational posters, displaying quotes about energy conservation, and collecting 564 energy conservation pledges from students.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school continued to participate in the PPP program. The Green Team earned power points by conducting power patrols.
- Students participated in the district's first student Sustainability Summit in March 2017. Green Team students learned how to properly sort items into recycling, compost, and garbage bins, and brainstormed and shared ways to help the school create less waste.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

The Green Team created a worm bin to learn about the process and benefits of vermiculture composting. The worm bin was used as a teaching tool in multiple classrooms, and Green Team members created a website to share information about worm bins, waste reduction, and recycling.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students created a Green Grizzlies newspaper which featured articles on sustainability, technology, and environmental practices.
- Digital Green Grizzlies publications were produced and shared with the school community via Skyward website and Google Classroom.



- Students were regularly encouraged to use water bottle filling stations to refill their durable water bottles.
- In November 2018, a speaker from Nature Vision conducted a presentation for the Green Team on water conservation and pollution prevention.
- In 2018, eighth-grade science students completed a take-home energy audit to learn about their energy use and opportunities for conserving energy.
- In 2019, energy conservation facts and tips were added to the Green Team bulletin board. Green Team students conducted Power Patrols in several classrooms to assess current energy use and to promote conservation.
- Green Team repurposed an old banner for use as an Earth Day pledge wall during Earth Week 2019. Students were asked to pledge to recycle, reduce waste, and conserve energy and water. Students were encouraged to take the PPP pledge throughout the school year. The pledge was promoted through Skyward and Google Classroom and teachers received monthly email reminder about the pledge.
- During Earth Week, Green Team advisors shared activities, games, and videos with teachers for use during Stretch (homeroom) classes. One such resource was the EPA Water Sense and Energy Hog website.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- From October 2019 – January 2020, Green Team students participated in the statewide Future City competition by planning and designing a virtual and 3D model of a sustainable city. The model city included strategies to reduce waste, recycle, conserve energy and water, and prevent pollution. Students presented their final product as a team at the Future City gathering in January 2020, and displayed their 3D model in the library and during Parent Night.
- Kitchen staff encouraged students to place unopened, packaged items on the food share table for other students to take.
- In fall 2019, the school purchased reusable water bottles for each student and encouraged students to use them to reduce waste. The ASB offered free stickers as an incentive for students to bring their water bottles to school events.



- In December 2019, Green Team students created and shared a video to promote stacking the compostable trays at the end of each lunch period. This practice reduced the space trays take up in composting bins. Students competed to see which lunch period could stack the most trays.
- In January 2020, Green Team students conducted power patrols to assess classroom energy use. In February 2020, the Green Team participated in a Building Operator tour with McKinstry, the district's resource conservation manager, where they learned how the school reduced waste and conserved energy and water.
- In March 2020, teachers were encouraged to celebrate World Water Day to teach students about water sources and conservation, and Earth Hour was promoted via video announcements, posters, and employee emails.
- In April 2020, the principal shared video announcements about Earth Day and encouraged students to use an Earth Day resource guide compiled by teacher Breanna Powell. Students were encouraged to use Google Classroom to complete the People. Power. Planet. pledge to reduce waste and conserve energy.