



## Sylvester Middle School

**School district:** Highline

**School location:** Burien

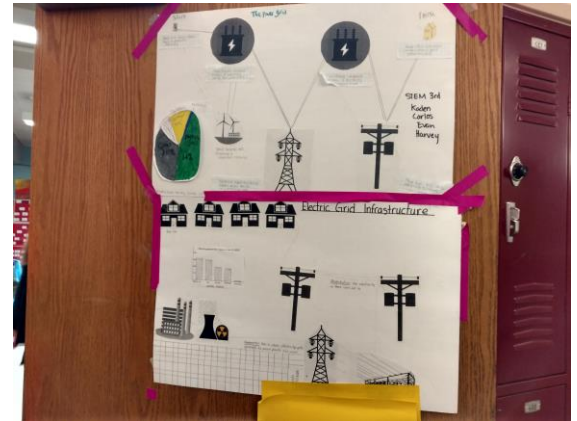
**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2016

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in January 2017

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2019

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Sylvester increased its recycling rate from 49% to 55% by May 2019.
- Staff and family volunteers helped start a student Green Team which included members of the ASB and Student Leadership class.
- In fall 2016, the Green Team set up collection of compostable materials in the lunchroom. With the help and support of custodian Earious Butler, student, staff and families monitored lunchroom waste stations to help students sort their garbage, recyclable materials, and organics (including food scraps and other compostable materials).
- Student Leadership and ASB members regularly promoted waste reduction, recycling, and composting in PA announcements.
- Student and parent volunteers created signs to display above lunchroom waste stations to help students understand how to sort. Signs also were posted throughout the school to increase student awareness.



Students learned about energy infrastructure, sources of energy, and energy conservation in a CTE Sustainable Cities course



- In fall 2018, to reduce paper use, Sylvester Middle School
  - implemented a school-wide printing policy and used Peachjar to share electronic flyers and newsletters. Several staff members began using Google Classroom to create electronic copies of assignments.
  - used iPads to check school visitors in and out.
- Students participated in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes to:
  - Make sure classrooms and office spaces had recycling bins and signs, and surveyed recycling bins to check for garbage.
  - Analyze the volume and composition of waste collected in one week.
  - Share with classmates its analysis along with recommendations on waste reduction practices and how to sort waste.
- In 2018-2019, to reduce waste in the lunchroom, the school
  - Used durable trays.
  - Used a sandwich board to display signs with examples of common garbage, recyclable, and compostable items.
  - Encouraged correct sorting as custodians and teachers helped monitor lunchroom waste stations.

## **Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- For Earth Day 2019, students built an edible plant garden and presented about connections between food and climate change at an all-school assembly.
- Teacher Joanna Rodriguez created advisory lessons on stewardship, maintaining healthy ecosystems, and human's role in climate change.
- Signs were posted near light switches and equipment to remind the school community to conserve energy by turning off lights and equipment when they were not needed.
- Computers were set to sleep mode or turned off at the end of the school day.
- Teachers encouraged students to dress appropriately for the weather.
- To conserve energy, classrooms used individual, adjustable thermostats and teachers kept the thermostats within a standard range.



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

---

- During fall 2018, students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes
  - Learned about energy conservation and alternative forms of energy, the mechanics of the electrical grid, and how to measure air quality indices in CTE Natural Resource class and CTE Sustainable Cities class.
  - Calculated their personal energy use and carbon footprints.
  - Studied energy resilience, climate change, the need for renewable forms of energy, and how technologies can mitigate impacts of climate change.
  - Designed energy grid models to demonstrate how to supply energy to a city using only renewable resources.
  - Learned about green energy careers during a field trip to the Clean Energy Institute at the University of Washington.
- Custodial staff checked the building regularly to ensure windows and doors were closed to save energy.