



Syre Elementary School

School district: Shoreline

School location: Shoreline

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: May 2011

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Syre Elementary increased its recycling rate from 21% to 53%.
- The student Green Team collected paper and other recyclable materials from classrooms twice each week.
- The Green Team educated the entire school about waste reduction and recycling via PA announcements, bulletin board displays, a web page, and cafeteria displays.
- The school added milk carton and juice box collection in the lunchroom.
- Syre started a food scrap collection pilot in March 2012. Before the pilot, the school generated an average of 24 pounds of garbage at lunchtime. **By the end of the pilot, the school generated an average of 3 pounds of garbage at lunchtime, along with 21 pounds of compostable food scraps and food-soiled paper.**
- The student Green Team led three Waste-Free Friday events to encourage students to pack waste-free lunches in reusable and recyclable containers. The reward for bringing a waste-free lunch was a ticket to participate in fun lunchtime activities. Student participation was high, with 42% earning a reward.
- The school participated in Pencils for Nicaragua, a campaign to collect pencils found on classroom floors. Students placed pencils in classroom Pencils for Nicaragua envelopes, and second-grade Green Team students collected the envelopes and sharpened pencils. Through May 2012, the school collected more than 1,500 pencils to send to Nicaragua.
- Capri Sun juice pouches were collected and mailed to TerraCycle, a company which used the pouches to make new products.