



## **Technology Access Foundation Academy (TAF@Saghalie)**

**School district:** Federal Way Public Schools

**School location:** Federal Way

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** October 2018

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in December 2020

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Led by head custodian Margarita Jacobson and Communities In Schools outreach coordinator Kimberly Foster, the school improved recycling practices to achieve a 41% recycling rate. Students and staff learned why reducing waste and recycling matter, and what materials belong in recycling and garbage bins.
- Jacobson coached students daily in the cafeteria about correct sorting, and sent emails to staff every two weeks and as needed to provide reminders about reducing waste and recycling.
- Recycling bins with signs provided by the Green Schools Program were placed next to garbage bins in classrooms, offices, and shared spaces.
- In September 2019 and January 2020, school-wide trainings were conducted on lunch procedures, including how to sort correctly.
- Waste reduction and recycling procedures were reviewed at staff orientations.
- From October 2019 through January 2020, students in Service Learning Classes received training on how to sort food scraps, recyclables, and garbage, then they helped monitor cafeteria sorting stations on a rotating schedule.
- To reduce wasted food, the school set up a food share table for unopened packaged foods from the school lunch program. Students could place or take items from the food share table.
- In 2019-20, the school started to use durable instead of single-use cafeteria trays.
- Bulk dispensers were used for condiments.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

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- In first quarter 2020, sixth-grade and seventh-grade students participated in STEM Exposition projects focused on eco-systems and sustainability.
- In June 2019, non-toxic bulk cleaning products were purchased, and the school started to use only those cleaning products in August 2019. To reduce waste and use of chemicals, single-use wipes and paper towels were replaced with reusable washable cloths and spray bottles diluted from a concentrated solution.