



Talbot Hill Elementary School

School district: Renton

School location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: October 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- In 2015-16, the school maintained a recycling rate of 55%.
- Small groups of student lunchroom monitors led by Jeanne Kalnick and parent volunteers helped sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- Talbot Hill used recycling bins from the Green Schools Program in all classrooms and offices, as well as for milk carton recycling at breakfast and lunch.
- The school's micro-society classes built and cared for worm bins which were fed vegetable and fruit scraps, learned about plants in an organic gardening center, and included recycling lessons in core subjects.
- To ensure Talbot Hill's recyclable materials were free of contaminants, students sorted recyclable materials in the "R-Kids" recycling center before they were taken to the outdoor recycling dumpster.
- A micro-society class reused materials, such as broken hula hoops, used cardboard boxes, paper used on one side, and old t-shirts to make basketball hoops, student journals, and more.
- The school participated in the TerraCycle program where materials such as empty juice pouches, granola bar wrappers, and chip bags were collected and sent to TerraCycle which used them to make backpacks, clipboards, pencil cases, waste baskets, and fences.
- Green Team students gave classroom presentations, created posters, and made a video to educate students and staff about waste reduction and recycling practices.



- Green Team students monitored recycling bins every day at breakfast, as well as two times per week at lunches, to help fellow students correctly sort.
- Students in a micro-society class participated in field trips to the King County Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and a local recycling center.
- The school reduced food waste by setting up a food share table in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch. Students could on the table unopened, packaged items from the school food service program, so other students could help themselves.
- To reduce paper use, staff communications were sent by email, and several classes set up paper reuse bins for paper printed on one side only.
- Staff reduced waste by using durable plates, glasses, and utensils in their staffroom.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- For the STEM fair in March 2016, the Green Team created five public service announcement videos about waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation.
- Green School recycling and energy conservation goals were shared and discussed at monthly staff meetings and community meetings, and communicated to families in monthly newsletters.
- “Turn of lights when not in use” stickers from the Green Schools Program were placed near light switches around the school.
- Energy conservation tips were shared in monthly newsletters, at staff meetings, and at community meetings through Green Team public service announcement videos.
- The school became an Energy Certified School in January 2015.
- The student Green Team checked classrooms to make sure recycling bins only contained recyclable materials, and lights and computers were turned off when rooms were not occupied.
- In monthly newsletters, students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather so they would be comfortable with the school’s standard thermostat settings.