

## Tesla STEM High School

**School district:** Lake Washington School District

**School location:** Redmond

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

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

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2018



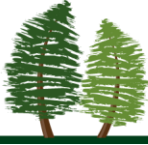
Students conduct waste audits to assess volume and composition of garbage, recycling, and compostable materials

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Tesla STEM High School achieved a recycling rate of 67%.
- The school Green Team grew from 10 students to about 100 students.
- The Green Team consistently made Facebook posts about waste reduction and recycling practices, and created posters to promote conservation practices around the school.
- The school started to collect food scraps and other compostable materials for transport to a regional composting facility.
- Students created and hung 3-dimensional posters with actual examples of recyclable materials attached to show students how to sort.
- A group of about 30 students was trained to monitor cafeteria sorting stations and to help fellow students sort correctly.
- Tesla STEM invited Zero Waste Washington to give presentations on waste reduction and recycling.



Students present their Schools Under 2C initiative, which encourages schools to commit to meeting carbon emission reduction goals in the Paris Climate Agreement.



- The Green Team hosted a kick-off day for high school Green Teams to collaborate on writing a sustainability plan, including waste reduction and recycling recommendations, for their schools.
- Tesla STEM conducted waste audits every week and weighed the waste daily. This helped the school understand the content and volume of its solid waste. Based on audit results, Green Team members presented to classrooms about how to sort materials correctly.
- The school collaborated with Redmond Morsbags to make and share reusable bags in classrooms.
- Several Green Team members talked to local businesses to assess support for a ban on plastic bags.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- “Turn off Lights” signs from the Green Schools Program were posted near classroom light switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when they were not needed.
- The Green Team encouraged classrooms to sign and display an energy conservation pledge which included information about how to conserve energy and how energy conservation helps reduce the school’s carbon footprint.
- Tesla STEM students created the Schools Under 2C initiative which asked schools to commit to meeting carbon emission reduction goals in the Paris Climate Agreement. The Green Team created a website for this initiative.
- In December 2017, the Green Team organized a school-wide showing of 24 Hours of Climate Reality, a day-long video broadcast of conversations between political, science, and business leaders about climate change.
- Energy conservation themes were included in Environmental Science classes. Students compared renewable energy sources and stakeholder perspectives about how best to reduce energy use. In their study of climate change, Environmental Engineering students designed a sustainable city that would reduce energy use and carbon emissions even with a growing population.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

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- Motion-activated lights were used in all classrooms, restrooms, and hallways, and teachers used daylight in classrooms whenever possible.
- All school computer equipment was set to shut down automatically at the end of each day, and vending machines were installed with timers to turn off at night.
- To help save energy, students encouraged staff to comply with the “no personal appliances” in classrooms policy.
- Before summer break, to save energy, food was consolidated in as few refrigerators as possible and unnecessary refrigeration units were shut down.
- Administration encouraged students and staff to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust the thermostat.