



The Jewish Day School

School location: Bellevue

School district : Private

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:

October 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2010

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in November 2011

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

Sustaining Green School 2014-15: Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School 2015-16: Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17: Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18: Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The Jewish Day School reached a recycling rate of 54%.
- Team Yerukim, the school's elementary student Green Team led by Rabbi Stuart Light, helped set up and maintain the school's recycling program.



Students participate in food scrap composting collection.



Jim Wiesen and Team Yerukim students receive the King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2011.



Lunchroom bins with signs garbage.



Students help remove invasive plants.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In 2010-11, in partnership with King County, the City of Bellevue provided on-site support, recycling bins, and recycling signs for the school.
- In 2011, Team Yerukim expanded to include a newly created school group led by facilities and athletic director Jim Wiesen. The elementary and middle school team members worked together to maintain and improve the school's recycling practices.
- Two students from each class made daily deliveries of garbage and recyclable materials from classrooms to a central area where they were emptied into collection containers. The process was monitored by Jim Wiesen.
- The school started campus-wide collection of food scraps, which were sent to a Cedar Grove Composting facility to be composted.
- In 2011, the school reduced the size of its garbage dumpster and increased the number of compost collection containers from one to three.
- In 2009-10, in partnership with Albertsons, the school returned polystyrene sandwich packaging to be recycled. In 2010-11, in response to the school's request that no polystyrene packaging be used for sandwiches, Albertsons packaged sandwiches in paper sacks which were collected and placed in the school's composting bins.
- Durable trays and utensils were used at special events and the lunchroom switched to compostable serving-ware.
- The school established an area for reusable supplies such as file folders, binders, decorations, displays, etc.
- Containers were set up for old electronic equipment.
- To reduce wasted food, the school set up a lunchroom food share table for unopened, packaged foods so students could place items on the table and other students could take what they wanted.
- To reduce paper use, staff and the parent association increased use of email, e-newsletters, and blogs for their communications, and staff canceled unwanted subscriptions and mail.



A King County Green Schools Program representative trained second- and third-grade students on why and how to reduce waste and correctly sort materials for recycling and composting



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- Team Yerukim started an annual holiday Recycled Gift Fair encouraging students and their families to donate toys and gifts they no longer used. Participating families received credits to purchase other recycled toys and gifts.
- Team Yerukim promoted waste-free lunches by encouraging students and their parents to pack lunches and snacks in durable and recyclable containers.
- A King County Green Schools Program representative trained second- and third-grade students why and how to reduce waste and sort materials correctly.
- Team members monitored lunchroom containers to ensure compostable materials, recyclable materials, and trash were sorted correctly.
- Team Yerukim created three-dimensional signs with actual items glued to them to show students and staff what materials belong in each bin.
- Middle school students produced a video and skit about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Students and staff weighed and tracked food waste as part of a zero-waste lunch challenge to increase compostable materials collected in the lunchroom.
- Preschool students learned to place their leftover food from snacks into a worm bin located in the school's vegetable and herb garden.
- Elementary students organized campus clean up and litter removal.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- To conserve energy use, water temperatures were lowered where allowed.
- Thermostats were set at energy-efficient levels and monitored to ensure they were not adjusted by unauthorized persons, and the school replaced old lighting fixtures with energy-efficient lighting.
- All lights and heat settings were programmed to shut off in unoccupied rooms.
- School communications encouraged parents to dress students appropriately for classroom temperatures.
- Team Yerukim created signs for light switches, computer stations, copiers, smartboards, and appliances to encourage conservation.
- Energy conservation tips were shared at the school's First Friday assemblies.
- Unnecessary appliances were removed from classrooms and offices.



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Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Team Yerukim created water conservation signs to post above sinks throughout the campus.
- Aerators were added to numerous sinks.
- Single-use plastic water bottles were not available on campus. The school encouraged reusable water bottles and distributed durable bottles to students.
- Preschool classes conserved water by only running full loads when dishwashing or clothes washing.
- In October 2012, students created signs to share how much water was saved the previous year and to encourage continuing conservation efforts. The data along with the school's conservation efforts were presented at staff meetings, on the school website, and in e-newsletters.
- The fourth-grade and middle school curriculum included water conservation, watersheds, storm water, and wastewater lessons. Guest speakers presented about water conservation and how to prevent water pollution.
- Second- and third-grade classes raised salmon fry and read a story called *Come Back Salmon* with information on how a school protects a stream and its salmon.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The Jewish Day School sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school accomplished this is detailed below.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

The school worked with Cascade Water Alliance to install a rain cistern and drip irrigation system to conserve water in its garden. Thanks to the cistern's water reserves, the school did not have to run the taps for the school garden in summer of 2014.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

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Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The school administration approved a sixth- through eighth-grade elective class on sustainability. Topics and projects in this class included:
 - Learning about and promoting water conservation at school and home.
 - Creating a recycling relay field activity to teach other students how to sort waste into recyclable and compostable materials, garbage, and reusable items. Student led the relay for third-grade classes and then discussed why certain items were sorted into categories students may not have expected. Additional grade levels completed the relay in gym class.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- All indoor recycling bins were placed next to garbage bins, with signs on or above each bin to help students and staff sort correctly.
- Weekly conservation tips and reminders were posted on the school's website and in the weekly newsletter.
- School lunches were served on durable and compostable serving-ware.
- Automatic shut-off features, compact fluorescent lights, and LED bulbs were installed to reduce energy use.
- Elementary school curriculum included information about salmon runs, stream restoration, and watershed protection.
- Students helped maintain the school's garden with its worm bins, on-site composting for leaves and other yard waste, raised garden beds, and a rain cistern and drip irrigation to conserve water.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- During the student "day of helping" in June, students helped clean up the local area by picking up litter and removing invasive species.
- The Jewish Day School added two new water bottle refilling stations to reduce use of disposable plastic water bottles.
- School leadership researched the cost of upgrading parking lot lights to LED bulbs and replacing gas tools such as the leaf blower with battery-powered options.



King County Green Schools Program

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Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- To reduce gas emissions and noise pollution, the school purchased battery-operated replacements for several gas-powered landscaping tools.
- Curriculum included conservation components such as bee pollination, watershed restoration, and protecting key species.

Environmental Education

- The school made environmental stewardship a key component of its curriculum. Recycling and stewardship projects, such as removing invasive plants and the clean-up of area parks and trails, were part of the school's two annual community service days in 2013-14.
- Middle school students participated in an environmental summit focused on climate change.
- Middle school math and science curriculum was updated to include energy conservation information and activities.
- Middle school science teacher Lisette Trombley used lessons from Hazards on the Homefront, a program offered by King County, in all her classes. The sixth-grade class made bottles of non-toxic spray cleaner using vinegar, water, and borax, then designed labels for the bottles, made posters, filmed a commercial, and invited parents to visit the class to compare the product with a commercial spray cleaner. Parents were given the opportunity to take the bottles for use at home.

Environmental Purchasing

- The Jewish Day School instituted a comprehensive environmental purchasing policy pertaining to office and art supplies, cleaning products, energy-efficient equipment, kitchen and lunchroom products, and other purchases.
- The school purchased recycled content paper and printed on unbleached, Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper with soy and vegetable based ink.
- Green building approaches and standards were carefully considered and implemented whenever possible during renovation and construction.



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Transportation

- Team Yerukim started a no-idling campaign in the school parking lot during student drop-off and pick-up times to educate students and their families about health and environmental effects of idling cars.
- The school encouraged families to carpool and offered two buses from Seattle for transportation to the school.
- In spring 2013, two parking spots were designated for high efficiency vehicles.

Awards

- Team Yerukim and Jim Wiesen, athletic director and facilities director, received the King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2011.
- Eighth-grade student Fay Koyfman won a King County Earth Hero at School award in May 2015.