



## Timberline Middle School

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Redmond

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** June 2019

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2022

**Student Green Team recognition:** Received in June 2023

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Timberline Middle School achieved a recycling rate of 41%.
- Led by teacher and Green Team advisor Julia Vasiliauskas, with support from principal Heidi Paul and head custodian Mark Foster, the student Green Team created a [video](#) about sorting lunchroom materials. On the first day of school, the video was shown in all classes and instructions were shared in the lunchroom.
- All classes played a recycling game to learn what materials should be placed in recycling and garbage bins.
- In 2019, the Green Team completed a waste audit focused on food waste. After the audit, the team shared ways to reduce wasted food. Following education about what food items students were required to take, food waste was reduced. Students learned it was optional to take a milk carton and fruit, as long as they take at least three required food items.
- The Green Team created video announcements on reducing food waste and preventing ocean plastic pollution. The team made announcements on hallway TV monitors, created a Green Team bulletin board, and put together 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached to show what materials should be placed in garbage, recycling, and organics bins.
- In 2022-23, an eighth-grade science class helped plan and set up lunchroom collection of food scraps and other compostable materials. Education included announcements, posters, and sorting station monitors to help students sort.
- Reuse and waste prevention practices:
  - Supplies, including decorations, were saved and reused.



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

---

- As of April 2022, thanks to its water bottle filling station, 7,595 single-use plastic water bottles were not purchased. Water in the Health Room was offered in durable cups from a refillable pitcher.
- Hand sanitizer bottles were refillable.
- Durable trays were used in 2019. This practice was suspended by the district when the pandemic began.
- Teachers used Teams and OneNote to post assignments. Some teachers provided re-use boxes for paper printed on one side only.
- Staff bulletins were sent via email and OneNote, and family communications were emailed and posted on the school website.
- A paper budget was set for each staff position, since different staff positions require different quantities of paper, and each staff member was assigned a copy machine code. This tracking reduced paper use.
- In 2021-22, science students selected sustainability-related service learning opportunities. Seventh-grade students focused on individual actions, and eighth-grade students on collection actions.
- The foods teacher and PTSA established a pesticide-free school garden.