



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Tolt Middle School

**School district:** Riverview

**School location:** Carnation

**Participated in the pilot Green Schools Program:** 2002–2003. Note: The pilot program did not include Level One, Two, Three, or Sustaining Green School recognition.

### Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Tolt reduced its garbage volume by more than 15 tons and saved Riverview School District \$3,000 in garbage collection service fees.
- The school accomplished this by starting to recycle cardboard, paper, and empty plastic bottles, collecting food scraps to be composted in the school's garden, and encouraging waste prevention actions such as double-sided copying.
- Selim Uzuner, head custodian, led all school conservation actions.

### Energy Conservation

- For February and March 2003, Tolt's energy savings totaled \$1,195.24, a 5% reduction in cost compared to the same time period in 2002.



- The heating system in one building was repaired.
- Custodians replaced 42 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).
- An automatic timer was installed on the school's reader board and pole lights.
- Signs were placed on light switches reminding the school community to turn off lights when exiting rooms.



## **Environmental Purchasing**

- Tolt purchased 60 cases of recycled-content paper for its copy machine.
- Non-toxic cleaners were purchased for use by the custodial staff.

## **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- The Tolt Green Schools' team advocated for a change in the school district's policy on idling school buses.
- Riverview School District sent a memo to all school bus drivers instructing them to turn off their engines if their buses are parked outside of schools for longer than 30 seconds.
- Tolt hung a sign near its loading dock instructing delivery vendors to turn off their engines while unloading supplies.

## **Environmental Education**

Two Tolt teachers attended a King County workshop on hazardous wastes and included information about hazardous wastes in their 2003-2004 curriculum.