



## Twin Falls Middle School

**School district:** Snoqualmie Valley

**School location:** Snoqualmie

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2008

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2009

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Twin Falls Middle School opened its doors in September 2008. Led by teachers John Spiess and Dawn Frearson and supported by custodian Betty Hamilton, Twin Falls started its first year with an emphasis on resource conservation.
- In the summer of 2008, Spiess, Frearson, and Hamilton prepared to have classroom and lunchroom recycling set up for the first day of the new school.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were placed in the lunchroom for milk cartons, juice boxes, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans, and in hallways for paper and other materials.
- Through morning announcements and monitoring lunchroom collection bins, the student Green Team at Twin Falls helped fellow students learn what materials can be recycled.
- The recycling rate at Twin Falls improved from a starting point of 41% in fall 2008 to 50% by the end of the school year.
- Twin Falls students promoted Waste Free lunch practices to students who bring lunch from home. A Waste Free lunch includes durable and recyclable packaging.
- Spiess and the environmental club prepared conservation tips for the weekly parent newsletter and promoted “no-print” days to encourage paper reduction.

### **Environmental Education/Energy Conservation**

- Twin Falls teachers work together on curriculum design. They created Garbage Dump Dilemma unit where students see what happens when items are left to



King County Green Schools Program

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decompose. The unit includes math calculations, scientific testing, and measuring of variables.

- Through the Cool School Challenge, students learned about energy conservation practices.
- The district automatically shut down computers at the end of every school day.

## **Awards**

Spiess received a King County Earth Hero at School award in 2009 for his leadership setting up a recycling program and guiding the school's environmental club.