



Twin Lakes Elementary School

School district: Federal Way

School location: Federal Way

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2011

Student Green Team recognition: Multiple school years, including 2022-2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Twin Lakes Elementary started to collect recyclable and compostable materials in the lunchroom and achieved the following results.
 - During the first day of lunchtime recycling, the lunchtime recycling rate increased from zero to 45%.
 - About 32 gallons of recyclable material and 20 gallons of compostable material were collected daily.
 - Reduced garbage by 80% or about 260 gallons per week.
 - Reduced the size of the school's outdoor garbage dumpster, thus reducing garbage disposal costs by approximately \$4,000 per year.
- Recycling Revolution was the theme used to encourage staff and students to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle. The Twin Lakes student Green Team achieved significant changes in how the school community thinks about and treats the environment. "We Achieve Together" was the school's motto.
- The student council encouraged everyone to help on a green team. Multiple student Green Teams helped promote conservation actions by creating PowerPoint presentations and displaying posters throughout the school.
- Green Team students placed bins for used paper towels near classroom sinks, and emptied the bins into lunchroom food scrap bins each day. Food scraps and paper towels were picked up by a hauler and taken to a local composting facility.
- Many Twin Lakes' students shared waste reduction and recycling habits at home.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In the 2022-2023 school year, third-grade students formed a “Trash Talkers” group, and picked up trash from around the campus during recesses. They placed recyclable materials from litter into indoor recycling bins.

