



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Two Rivers School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: North Bend

Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:
March 2008

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

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in April 2012

Sustaining Green School recognition: Achieved for

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2017-18
- 2018-19

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Two Rivers School achieved and maintained a recycling rate of 45%.
- The Green Team placed stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled on all indoor recycling bins. For classrooms and common areas, students created posters with actual examples of recyclable materials glued to them.
- Reusable, washable trays and bowls were used for all school lunches. The school installed a water refill station to promote the use of reusable water bottles.



Raised garden beds in school courtyard at Two Rivers School



Student with poster about how to reduce one's carbon footprint



Water bottle refilling station to encourage students and staff to use reusable water bottles



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- In 2008, the environmental science class began a composting project with a grant from the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation.
- Green Team members presented to all classes about waste reduction and recycling practices at school.
- In 2011, students visited North Bend Elementary every day for two weeks to teach students how to recycle their lunch waste.
- Environmental science students learned about nutrient cycling in a nitrogen cycle investigation using lab supplies purchased through a Green Team grant.
- Students made bins for snack wrappers and Capri Sun juice pouches which were sent to TerraCycle, a company that used them to make new products.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Signs reminding students and staff to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms were placed near all light switches.
- Classroom lights were set to automatically shut-off when the school closed, and restroom lights were set to turn off when the bathrooms were unoccupied.
- The Green Team monitored computers to ensure they were turned off at night.
- Students researched ways to reduce the school's electricity use and created a storyboard which was shared with teachers and students.
- The Green Team created and hung posters about electricity use throughout the school.
- One student made a presentation showing how using less electricity can help salmon.



Student poster on connection between saving energy and salmon



Student with cell phone recycling container



Student explains recycling poster to fellow students



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- Students researched carbon footprints and created posters to hang throughout the school on how students can reduce their carbon footprints.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- One student guided a class in making “Got Water?” fliers to hang near sinks in classrooms and restrooms as a reminder to conserve water when washing hands.
- One student tracked the school’s average monthly and yearly water use totals.
- Students made a poster to hang in the Commons area with tips showing what can be done at school and home to conserve water.
- At several monthly all-school meetings, students shared information about the school’s water use and provided tips on water conservation.
- Students measured the flow of the faucets in all classrooms and bathrooms.
- All classes worked together to create a school-wide pledge campaign agreeing to save water and prevent pollution. The pledge included a commitment to maintain Green Schools Program waste reduction and recycling and energy conservation practices.
- Water circulation pumps were turned off during school breaks, dripping faucets and leaky toilets were reported, and a basin filled with water was used instead of continuously running water to wash dishes.
- Students used drought-tolerant plants and flowers when planting the school’s garden.



Students learned about marine invertebrates

Sustaining Green School recognition

Two Rivers School was recognized as a Sustaining Green School for sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.



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Sustaining Green School 2014-15

The Leadership Class wrote a letter to Snoqualmie Valley School District asking the district to stop purchasing and using polystyrene (Styrofoam) trays and other polystyrene materials in the school lunchroom.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Middle school students worked with Mountains to Sound Greenway on stewardship of Ribinary Creek. They were awarded the Give Good Award for their efforts at restoration of native areas.
- High school students studied invasive species in the same area.
- The Leadership Class cleaned up litter on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail adjacent to the school. Students emailed the King County Parks Department and asked to have a garbage bin placed on the trail for students to maintain. Once per week students went out on the trail to pick up litter and change the trash bag in the bin.
- The school expanded its existing gardens. The project was multidisciplinary with math classes responsible for design, science classes for calculating and planning compost, what to plant, and monitoring a drip system, leadership students for writing a grant proposal, and cooking and child development classes for integrating lessons about nutrition and how to grow one's own food.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Students volunteered monthly with Mountain to Sound Greenway to help plant native trees in South Fork and remove invasive species like holly, ivy, and blackberry.
- Several science classes participated in a series of Blue Team workshops to evaluate water quality, abiotic variable, and aquatic life in South Fork.
- Students completed a project on native pollinators in the school garden and planted flowers to attract them.



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Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Leadership class students taught waste reduction and recycling practices in advisory and science classes, and replaced recycling signs around the school as needed.
- Students cleaned the outdoor compost pile, collected leaves, rebuilt the drip system, and planted and maintained the spring garden.
- Environmental Science classes participated in a Mountain to Sound Greenway project to remove invasive species and plant native plants along the south fork of the Snoqualmie River.
- Blue Team students completed a water stewardship project with support from Nature Vision, a nonprofit environmental education organization. They discussed ways to reduce runoff and improve water quality on campus, studied how water on impervious surfaces transfers into rivers, and designed solutions to the problem.