



Valley Christian School

School district: Private

School location: Auburn

Began participating in Green Schools Program: March 2019

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in December 2020

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2022

Sustaining Green School 2022-2023: Achieved in May 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Valley Christian School maintained a recycling rate of 43 percent.
- Waste reduction and recycling information, announcements, and reminders were included in monthly staff meetings as well as weekly Chapel meetings.
- Four classrooms began tracking their waste and shared their results with students and staff at weekly Chapel meetings.
- On Earth Day, teachers shared videos about the recycling process with their students.
- The school sent an email to parents with information on how to pack a waste-free lunch.
- Second-grade students presented to Kindergarten and Pre-K classes on proper recycling practices.
- In the lunchroom, student and parent volunteers assisted students to sort their waste.
- Posters with common recyclable materials, compostable items, and garbage were displayed in the lunchroom.
- Students participated in a waste reduction and recycling workshop presented by the King County Green Schools Program.
- Second-grade students learned about waste reduction and recycling through an educational activity and coloring book provided by the City of Auburn.
- Good on One Side (G.O.O.S) paper reuse boxes were placed in every classroom.



- Valley Christian School reduced food waste by setting up classroom worm bins and maintaining them with leftover food scraps collected from lunch and snack times.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In October 2019, the school created an energy monitor role in each classroom. The energy monitors used an energy checklist to make sure energy was conserved.
- In January 2020, the school posted signs near light switches and electronic equipment to encourage students and staff members to turn off lights when rooms were not in use and to turn off equipment at the end of each day.
- Weekly energy conservation announcements were made during Chapel, and the school community was sent reminders about dressing for the weather to conserve energy use.
- Students reviewed energy conservation themes in class.
- In October 2020, the school requested and received energy conservation information from its local utility, and second-grade students taught each other about energy resources and energy conservation practices.
- Students developed an instructional video in October 2020 to be shown in classrooms and at a teacher's meeting.
- The school custodian ensured lights and electronics were shut down when not in use.
- In January 2020, to maintain and expand its waste reduction and recycling practices, the school began to collect plastic bags and other plastic film for recycling through TREX, a company using plastic film to make outdoor benches and other products.
- In December 2019, students wrote papers about the importance of recycling, and students received prizes for using reusable water bottles.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Valley Christian School continued to collect recyclable and compostable materials, to encourage reusable water bottles, and to educate students and staff about recycling and other conservation practices.
- Second-grade students taught Kindergarten students about recycling.



- The school continued to provide durable trays at lunch. Students assisted their peers to sort materials correctly at lunchtime.
- The school collected 480 pounds of plastic bags as part of a program offered by Trex, a company which uses plastic film to make outdoor benches and other products.
- Students read books and watched videos about climate change and what can be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Signs from the Green Schools Program on how to conserve water were posted by sinks.
- Storm drains were labeled with "Puget Sound starts here" and students learned how Puget Sound can be polluted by what enters storm drains.
- In April the school participated in Auburn's Clean Sweep to help keep local parks clean.
- Teachers sent work orders to maintenance staff to report leaks and other water issues.
- Low flow faucets, faucet aerators, a water-efficient commercial dishwasher, and drought tolerant plants on campus helped to conserve water.

Sustaining Green School 2022-2023

- At monthly Green Team meetings, two students selected by the classroom teacher in each grade from Kindergarten through sixth-grade represented the student body.
- Upper grades helped train younger students about reducing waste and recycling.
- Compostable plates were used at lunch in at least three classrooms.
- The school continued to collect plastic bags and send them to Trex, a company which uses plastic film to make outdoor benches and other products.
- Green Team participated in daily litter patrols organized by grade teachers.
- Second-grade and Kindergarten students helped plant and maintain flower, strawberry, and pumpkin gardens.
- The school updated its signs to remind staff and students to turn off lights when rooms are unoccupied.
- Guest classroom speakers from Nature Vision presented about watersheds and plastics in the ocean. Second-grade projects for the school's STEM Fair were ecology related.