



Waskowitz Outdoor School

School district: Highline

School location: North Bend

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2015

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2018

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

Sustaining Green School 2019-20: Achieved in June 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Waskowitz Outdoor School achieved and maintained a 50% recycling rate.
- Program orientation for each group of student campers started with a lunch by the river where students learned how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- Meals were served family style with reusable plates, utensils, and cups.
- All food scraps were composted in an on-site Earth Tub, and grass clippings were left on the lawn to biodegrade.
- Waste reduction and recycling goals were shared at monthly staff meetings.
- A recycling superhero visited each user group as part of 11 superheroes focused on conservation practices.
- Waskowitz students enjoyed skits about waste reduction performed by staff members. Littlefoot taught students about reducing their ecological footprint and Trashbuster focused on the “4 R’s” – rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Staff limited paper use by eliminating junk mail, printing only when needed, and using both sides of paper.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- During 2018-19, the school updated its environmental curriculum to include current waste reduction information and techniques. In its new student group orientations, the school included information on how to reduce waste and conserve energy.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students calculate their carbon footprints weekly as part of the school's curriculum, and climate change and resource conservation issues were included in classroom lessons.
- Students formed an Energy Conservation Patrol to ensure lights and equipment were turned off at the end of each day, and teachers helped ensure windows and doors were closed while heating/cooling was on.
- "Turn off lights" signs were posted near all switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when leaving rooms. Classrooms used daylight rather than electric lights whenever possible.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust the thermostat.
- All incandescent lights were replaced with fluorescent or LED bulbs.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- New campers were informed about how to conserve resources, and participated in activities about water conservation goals and practices.
- Climate change, water conservation, and other conservation practices were included in school activities and lessons.
- Elementary and high school students tested multiple water sources on campus.
- Signs were posted and tips were shared with campers about not placing trash in the toilets, and water conservation signs next to student and staff sinks.
- The school bought high-efficiency and low flow toilets and faucets when replacements were needed.



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Sustaining Green School recognition

Waskowitz sustained and built 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 is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Waskowitz shifted most school documents to Google Forms, significantly reducing the amount of printing in the school office starting September 2019.
- Students visited Cedar River Watershed to learn about water sources and how water is a valuable shared resource.
- Students participated in lessons about climate change, energy, and water use. The lessons included practicing the actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprints at home and school.