



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Woodin Elementary School

School district: Northshore

School location: Bothell

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: January 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Woodin Elementary increased its recycling rate from 38% to 47% percent during 2012-13.
- Teachers reviewed recycling rules with their students at the beginning of the school year and after school breaks. As a classroom job, students took turns emptying the recycling bins.
- The student Green Team met during recess and promoted recycling practices throughout the school year.
- Custodians Pat Connors and Sami Rajendra supported the school's recycling efforts by emptying hallway recycling bins and monitoring outdoor collection containers.
- To reduce organic waste from daily lunches, several classrooms took turns collecting food scraps to add to the school's four on-site worm bins. The Garden Club used the compost from the worm bins to fertilize the school gardens.
- The school participated in a King County waste reduction and recycling assembly in October 2012, and third- through sixth-grade students received classroom workshops.
- Teacher Christine Ro assigned two classroom jobs: "Environmentalist" to empty the classroom recycling bin and "Light Saver" to turn off lights when leaving the classroom.
- Ms. Ro celebrated Earth Day with her third-grade class by creating a recycled paper art project and practicing math on desks with shaving cream instead of paper.
- Teacher Kirsten Jackson taught a healthy planet unit to her second-graders.



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- Teacher Leslie Connor assigned a dishwasher job to wash durable utensils for the classroom. Students used cloth napkins and towels to reduce paper waste.
- To reduce paper copies, teachers printed double-sided copies, made half-sheet assignments, used white boards and document cameras, and asked students to take notes in their spiral notebooks.
- Students created art with old magazines and scrap paper used on one side.
- Instead of printing paper newsletters and volunteer sign-up forms, the PTA placed this information on the school website.
- The school newsletter and PTA newsletter regularly included articles about Woodin's Green School initiatives and successes.
- At a recycled craft station at the annual all-school field day, students created milk carton boats and colorful garden decorations with repurposed paint.

Other Environmental Actions

- Woodin Elementary maintained a vegetable garden, a butterfly garden, a "Dia de los Muertos" garden, a colonial garden, and a Pacific Northwest coastal native plant garden.
- Students participated in Garden Club during recess and helped to dig and maintain the gardens. Their first strawberry plant sale was held in 2013.
- Each spring, classes planted seeds and grew plants to add to the school gardens. Kindergarteners planted edible seeds in honor of Earth Day and celebrated at the end of the school year by making a salad with the harvest.
- During annual back to school work days, volunteers removed invasive plant species from school grounds.

Award

Parent volunteer Angela Johnson received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2011.