

King County Green Schools Program



Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Mission

To provide King County schools and school districts with tools and support needed to

- initiate and expand waste reduction and recycling practices and other conservation actions.
- involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship.
- operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities.

Program benefits

- **Assistance** - King County provides trainings and hands-on assistance.
- **Resources** - King County provides recycling containers and stickers, information and referrals.
- **Opportunities for students** - Students learn about conservation, take action, and develop leadership skills.
- **Cost savings** - Conservation practices save money.
- **Recognition** - Participants are recognized as Green School models.

Program summary

- Program participants may progress through four program levels. After completing education and actions in each level, participants receive recognition.
- Eligible schools and school districts are K - 12, public and private, and are located in King County outside the City of Seattle.
- King County provides assistance and support, including the following.
 1. Assessment of waste reduction and recycling practices.
 2. Site visits, meetings with Green Teams, and ongoing guidance to make improvements, track successes, and complete program criteria in each level.
 3. Trainings for staff and student leaders, and guidance with education and outreach about conservation practices.
 4. Recycling containers (up to \$200 per school), recycling stickers, and other materials.

How to become a King County Green School or District

Step 1 Form a Green Schools team.

- School teams include two or more staff members (such as teachers, principal, custodian), as well as students, student groups, and parents.
- School district teams include at least two district staff (such as a resource conservation manager, facility manager, food services director, or curriculum director), and may include school staff, students, and parents.

Step 2 Sign up to participate. Fill out a [program application form](#).

Step 3 Educate and take action. Complete Level One, which is focused on waste reduction and recycling. *King County provides assistance and tools.*

Step 4 Celebrate successes and receive recognition!

If desired, complete Levels Two, Three, and Four -- and receive additional recognition.

- Level Two**
1. Sustain and build upon Level One waste reduction and recycling practices.
 2. Complete **energy conservation** education and actions.

- Level Three**
1. Sustain and build upon Level One and Level Two practices.
 2. Complete **water conservation and pollution prevention** education and actions.

- Level Four**
1. Sustain Level One, Level Two, and Level Three practices.
 2. **Complete one additional conservation action or educational strategy** from the Level One, Two, or Three Best Practices Guides or from any of the following program guides.

Other school categories

Healthy Schools

Litter Reduction

Transportation

Other school district and private school categories

Environmental Education

Environmental Purchasing

Green Building

Schools and districts that do not meet the criteria are still eligible to receive assistance.

Participants receive recognition

- Each school that completes Level One receives a banner, web logo, certificate, and success story on the program website. When schools complete Levels Two or Three, certificates and "Level 2" or "Level 3" banner stickers are provided, and success stories are updated. Sustaining Green Schools receive a certificate and a "Sustaining Green School" banner ribbon for each year Level Four criteria is completed.
- Media releases are issued to recognize participants that complete program levels.

Sign up to participate

King County schools (K - 12, public and private) and school districts outside Seattle may [submit an application](#) at any time. Participants are selected on a first come, first served basis.

Contact: Dale Alekel, Program Manager, 206-477-5267, dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov

Website: www.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools

