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## Recycling and resource conservation classroom programs

For middle and high school students and teachers (grades 6-12)

### Workshop Features

**Standards-based** – Workshops align with learning standards for science, communications, reading, social studies, and other subjects.

**Hands-on** – Students are engaged through hands-on activities relevant to their everyday lives.

**Interactive group work** – Students work in small groups, rotating through stations and project tasks.

**Critical thinking skills** – Students are challenged to make connections to real-world issues and think for themselves. Students apply what they learn using activity sheets, games, and quizzes.

**Action-oriented** – Each workshop asks students to consider how the topic relates to their lives and what steps they can take to make a difference for the environment.

**Service learning** – Workshops can lead directly to service learning projects in which students apply what they learn to real projects in their schools and communities.

**Flexible class length** – Workshops last 50 minutes, but can be extended to accommodate block periods.

**Find us on the web**

[www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp](http://www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp)

## King County Green Schools Program

This program provides King County schools and school districts with assistance and tools to do the following:

- Initiate and expand conservation practices.
- Operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities.
- Involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship.

### Program services

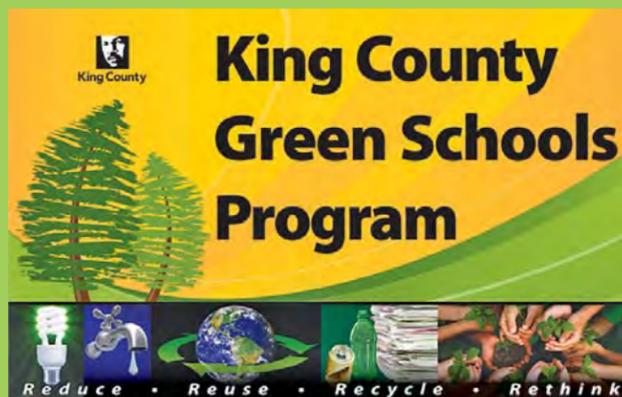
- Hands-on help, including school visits
- Assistance encouraging students and staff to participate in conservation practices
- Recycling containers, signs, and other tools
- Recognition

### Program levels

- Level One – Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Level Two – Energy Conservation
- Level Three – Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention
- Sustaining Green School/Sustaining Green School District

### Additional program areas

- Green Building
- Healthy Schools
- Litter Reduction
- Transportation



### Recognition

Each school that meets program criteria receives a "We are a King County Green School" banner, a certificate, mention in a press release, and a success story on the county web site.

To sign up, visit [your.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools](http://your.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools) or contact Dale Alekel at [dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov](mailto:dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-5267.

Alternative Formats On Request

206-477-4466 | TTY Relay: 711

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# King County EcoConnections Workshops

Request these **FREE** presentations for your classroom. Call 206-583-0655 or email [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com).

## Focus on Life Science and Ecosystems

**Biodiversity in Our World** – What is biodiversity and why is it important for survival on Earth? How do our shopping and waste disposal choices affect biodiversity? Students actively engage in a discussion of real-world issues such as habitat protection, population growth, and climate change. Through challenging and fun hands-on activities, students gain a clearer understanding of our everyday effects on the planet and how our personal choices can make a difference for the better. The high school version of this workshop includes a focus on ecosystem services.

*The workshop and instructor were fantastic. I would not have the time or resources to put together such a wonderful activity/presentation.*  
– High school teacher

**Biospheres** – How does the closed system of a biosphere compare to Earth? Students work in small groups and observe small-scale model ecosystems called Ecospheres to understand biotic and abiotic factors and natural cycles. Students compare the Ecosphere to Earth and realize how their daily consumption and disposal habits affect the planet. They rethink their choices and explore ways to live more sustainably.

*The Biospheres workshop was a perfect complement to the material being taught in class. The model was an excellent demonstration of small-scale ecology and allowed them to observe interactions in a closed system.*  
– Middle school teacher



**If you are a Green School, registering as a Green Team is the perfect way to involve students in reaching your school's goals.**

## Focus on Earth Systems and Human Activity

**Consumption Junction** – How do our lifestyles affect the quality of the Earth's environment? How does recycling conserve natural resources and minimize human impacts? By studying the life cycle of an aluminum can from its bauxite source to the recycling bin, students learn about the time, energy, and natural resources that are used to make an everyday product, the resulting environmental and climate change impacts, and how we can limit consumption to create a more sustainable future.

*The kids loved the hands-on activities. I heard kids saying they never thought about all the things that had to happen to make a can and how long it would take.*  
– Middle school teacher

**Four Rs for Our Climate (high school only)** – How do our shopping and waste habits contribute to climate change? How can using the four Rs help minimize your carbon footprint? This workshop begins with a review of the global carbon cycle, how humans have altered it, and the effect on climate change. After learning some basic climate change science, students explore how their consumption of natural resources and disposal of waste contributes to their carbon footprint. Students work in small groups to analyze the life cycle of an everyday item, the fast food hamburger, and they develop practical solutions to shrink their carbon footprint through better waste reduction and recycling practices.

*First time I've ever seen global climate change tied to solid waste—important to realize that connection! Students gave the presentation the "thumbs up."*  
– High school teacher

## Focus on Environmental Action

**Food for Thought** – What are we really wasting when we waste food? Why is composting that leftover pizza not such a green choice after all? This workshop explores the environmental and climate change impacts of food production, disposal, and waste. Students learn about the magnitude of food waste in King County and the United States, and they also explore what happens to food when it is either composted or sent to the landfill. Students calculate their "foodprint" to quantify their individual waste, and focus on positive changes they can make to lessen their environmental impact. This lesson can be adapted to include some how-to advice for schools that collect food waste for composting, but the key focus is on food waste prevention.

*This is one of the most informative and helpful environmental instruction pieces we have encountered in the academic world. It's awesome!*  
– High school teacher

**Let's Talk Trash** – How does your garbage affect natural resources, energy, and climate change? Students discover the connections by participating in a "talk show" hosted by the presenter. Students work in small teams and become experts on how recycling and waste prevention help save landfill space, conserve natural resources, and even reduce the factors that contribute to climate change. They use evidence to make persuasive arguments that help connect concepts to action. An optional pre-workshop home or classroom audit enables students to apply their ideas and solutions to their own school and community.

*This workshop was great because it put in perspective just how easy it is to help out...especially important for middle school students who don't think they have the power to make an impact.*  
– Middle school teacher

## Environmental Project Support

Contact a Green Team specialist at 206-583-0655 or [greenteam@triangleassociates.com](mailto:greenteam@triangleassociates.com).

- Contact a Green Team specialist via email or phone to brainstorm ideas, learn what resources are available, and receive recommendations on how to conduct a project.
- Register your Green Team and be eligible for recognition and rewards for your students.
- Download step-by-step Green Team campaigns on paper recycling, plastic bottle reduction and recycling, carpooling, and designing a quiz show at [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/secondaryschoolgtworkshops.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/secondaryschoolgtworkshops.asp).
- Subscribe to the Go, Green Team blog at [kingcountyschoolgreenteams.com](http://kingcountyschoolgreenteams.com). Find King County Green Teams on Facebook. Learn what other Green Teams are doing and share information about your projects.
- Apply for a Green Team Mini-Grant of \$50-\$200 to support project activities related to waste reduction, recycling, and resource conservation.

## Workshop Registration

**Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Register by calling 206-583-0655 or email [workshops@triangleassociates.com](mailto:workshops@triangleassociates.com).**



Request **Teach: Programs for Educators**, an annotated list of programs and services for teachers offered by King County. For more information on these and other programs, visit [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp).

*All workshops have been updated to reflect current topics and align with Next Generation Science Standards. Workshops are adapted for grade level.*