



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Beaver Lake Middle School

**School District:** Issaquah

**School Location:** Issaquah

**Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
June 2009

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in April 2010

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2015

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2017

**Sustaining Green School 2017-18:**  
Achieved in May 2018

**Sustaining Green School 2018-19:**  
Achieved in May 2019

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Beaver Lake Middle School achieved a 64 percent recycling rate, and then increased its recycling rate to 89 percent in 2018-19.
- With support from City of Issaquah, in 2013-14 Beaver Lake began collecting compostable materials in the lunchroom. Along with food scraps, approximately 45 pizza boxes were collected daily in the cafeteria. All compostable materials collected by the school were sent to a regional composting facility.
- In January 2015, a King County Green Schools Program representative provided a “What’s 4 Lunch” presentation at each school lunch period to



The student Green Team learned about salmon fry at Issaquah Fish Hatchery.



The student Green Team toured the Issaquah Fish Hatchery to learn about water quality.



Student Green Team members removed invasive English Ivy at school to help the environment.



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encourage students to reduce waste, recycle, and compost.

- In April 2015, the school dedicated each day during Earth Week to promote specific conservation actions such as recycling, reducing waste, conserving energy, and conserving water.
- In 2014-15, staff members monitored lunchroom recycling stations and assisted students with properly sorting lunch waste.
- For Earth Day 2015, the school participated in the district-wide Waste Free Lunch Challenge.
- The student-led Beaver Lake Environmental Education Club (BEE Club), received training from a King County representative on proper waste sorting.
- The BEE Club created signs, and video and intercom announcements to promote recycling and address common questions about recycling.
- The school organized a Zero Waste locker clean-out in the spring in which unwanted materials from lockers were recycled or donated to charity.
- Paper use was reduced by sending newsletters and fliers electronically.
- The staff workroom instituted a reuse station for used office supplies.
- Beaver Lake, along with all schools in the Issaquah School District, eliminated the use of drinking straws and polystyrene trays.
- The school lunchroom switched to a combination of durable trays and compostable paper trays, which are used at the end of each lunch period when the school's supply of durable trays has been depleted.
- The student Green Team audited and updated posters placed above or on collection containers.
- The Green Team estimated the cafeteria recycling rate then displayed results during lunchtime and gave tips and reminders.



Student Green Team members tested water quality at Beaver Lake Park.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school's vending machine lights were permanently turned off.



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- Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- Energy conservation signs were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- The BEE Club completed energy audits throughout the school in order to gather data such as when lights were being left on in unoccupied rooms.
- The BEE Club advisor presented a PowerPoint about energy conservation during a staff meeting to share successes and student energy audit results and to brainstorm ways the school can continue to improve.
- During Green Week in April 2015, employees and students were encouraged to celebrate Blackout Day by turning off lights and using daylight to conserve energy.

## **Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)**

- The school's Green Team performed a water audit by testing for leaks before a team came in to fix leaks and install aerators on faucets to conserve water.
- Hot water and circulation pumps were turned off during school breaks.
- Signs about water conservation were placed by all non-automatic shut off faucets.
- The Green Team completed a habitat restoration project at Lake Sammamish State Park and removed invasive English ivy from school grounds. Removing invasive species allowed native plants which generally need less water to thrive.

## **Sustaining Green School 2017-18**

- Beaver Lake Elementary was recognized as a Sustaining Green School for sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies.
- The student Green Team created a native plant book after learning about native and invasive plant species.
- Student Green Team members completed a water conservation campaign. The team posted educational posters around the school about water use and how to



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conserve water. The team created a water use trivia game for students to play during lunchtime.

## **Sustaining Green School 2018-19**

- In 2018-19, the Green Team created and distributed second chance paper boxes to classrooms for paper used only on one side. The team created signs and posters to encourage students to use the back sides of paper.
- For the cafeteria recycling stations, the Green Team built structures to place above waste and recycling bins so large signs on how to sort could be hung from each structure. The team also updated the sorting posters.
- The Green Team removed invasive species and planted new trees on school grounds to replace those the invasive species had impacted.
- Students met with a King County Green Schools Program representative at a September 2018 leadership summit where they shared the school's sustainable practices and Green Schools Program achievements.