



Cascade Ridge Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Sammamish

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
2006–07

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in December 2009

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2014

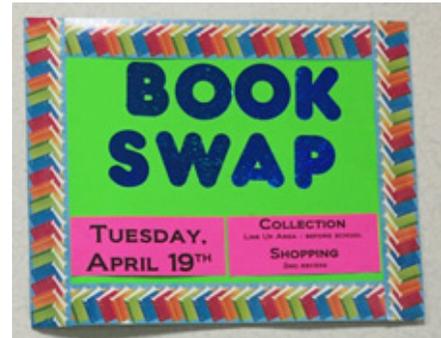
Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School:
Achieved in

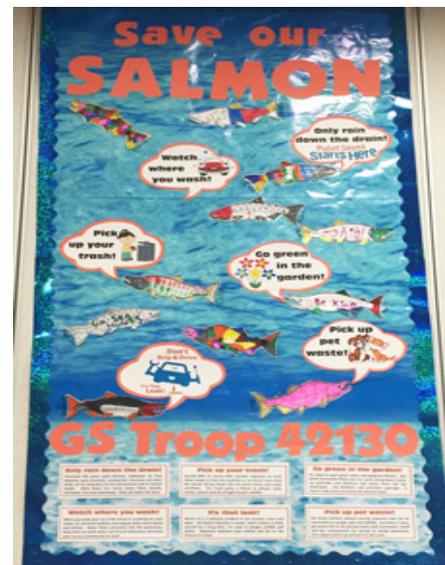
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Cascade Ridge Elementary School achieved a recycling rate of 52 percent.
- The school collected compostable materials in the lunchroom and classrooms.
- To encourage correct sorting, students decorated lids and made signs with recycling instructions.
- The school promoted recycling and composting at school-wide and PTA-sponsored events. Recycling and composting bins were placed at the annual Walk-A-Thon, Field Day, and other events.
- School staff promoted waste-free Wednesdays in the school cafeteria.



The school reduced waste through an annual book swap



Student Girl Scout troop members made a storm water pollution prevention poster



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle •

- To reduce paper use, the school switched to e-newsletters.
- “Good on one side” paper bins were placed in the staff workroom and the collected paper was used to make scratch pads.
- During Earth Week, parent volunteers held an annual waste reduction book swap event. The school partnered with a Girl Scout troop which made an Earth Week book swap poster for the school cafeteria.
- Students placed stickers provided by the King County Green Schools Program listing what can and can’t be recycled on recycling bins throughout the school.
- Along with all schools in the district, Cascade Ridge’s lunchroom eliminated the use of straws and used compostable paper trays in place of polystyrene trays.
- Issaquah School District provided a recycling bin next to each garbage bin at school entrances to increase recycling practices from families and visitors.
- The school received the King County elementary school assembly and follow-up classroom workshops about waste reduction and recycling.
- In 2016 and 2017, after receiving training from the King County Green Schools Program, student waste watchers assisted other students to sort in the cafeteria.
- Employees received regular reminders about waste reduction and recycling, as well as a January 2017 presentation by the King County Green Schools Program.
- In recognition of Earth Week, the school focused on a different conservation topic each day, including waste reduction and recycling.
- Lead custodian Shawna Carrigan replaced paper towel and toilet paper rolls when completely empty rather than when they were low and saved empty rolls for first-grade art projects. This reduced product orders and partial rolls going unused.
- The school recycled items not accepted in its regular recycling collection program through TerraCycle, a company that uses a variety of materials to make new products. The school recycled 2,862 apple sauce pouches and more than 18,000 drink pouches which are made of plastic with an aluminum lining.



King County Green Team aprons for student leaders who help other students sort lunch waste correctly

- Energy conservation signs were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Teachers incorporated energy conservation methods into fifth-grade curriculum.
- The school's vending machine lights were permanently turned off.
- A leadership team shared the school's energy usage with the school community and staff members.
- Staff and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- Energy conservation tips were promoted in the school's electronic newsletter.
- To reduce energy use, projectors were set on Eco Mode.
- The school tracked energy use hours for classroom projector light bulbs. Staff members were contacted if their use was over the typical monthly amount.
- Cascade Ridge realized a steady decrease in overall energy use from 2010 to 2014.
- The Dean of Students promoted carpooling to reduce parking lot congestion, reduce use of fossil fuels, and improve air quality.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Green Team students created water conservation and pollution prevention posters and asked students and staff members to pledge to protect water.
- Third-grade classes participated in City of Sammamish Healthy Watershed, Healthy World classroom workshops which focused on storm water pollution prevention and protecting local Kokanee Salmon.
- Third-grade classes participated in and won the City of Sammamish 2015 Kokanee Classroom Challenge. Students took home action sheets, noted each time they took a specific action to protect storm water within a two week period, and parents signed the completed action sheets. School employees promoted Waste Free Wednesdays in the school cafeteria.
- When they observed water fixture leaks, employees submitted work orders to district maintenance personnel.

- During Earth Week, parent volunteers held an annual waste reduction book swap event. The school partnered with a Girl Scout troop which made an Earth Week book swap poster for the school cafeteria.
- Water conservation signs were posted next to school faucets to remind students to turn off the water when not in use.
- Students tested water faucet flows and shared the results along with water conservation tips on the school's Green Team web page.
- To prevent water pollution, the PTSA sold Brown Bear commercial car wash tickets rather than hold a charity car wash.

Sustaining Green School recognition

The school 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 built on its Level One through Three achievements each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school partnered with the after-school Coyote Club to reduce waste and properly sort waste during after-school care.
- The Coyote Club began using compostable serving ware for snacks.
- Student Green Team Waste Watchers monitored waste stations and helped other students sort waste after school

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

The school replaced all disposable utensils in its cafeteria with durable utensils.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The school participated in the district's waste-free lunch competition.
- The student Waste Watchers continued to monitor cafeteria recycling stations and to help students sort waste correctly.



Success Story

- To reduce food waste, the school set up a food share bin in the cafeteria where students could place unwanted and unopened packaged foods and whole fruits for other students to take. Items not taken by students were picked up weekly by the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank.
- Younger students worked on small conservation projects throughout the school year and made waste audit signs on Earth Day.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- The school promoted carpooling to reduce parking lot congestion, improve air quality, and reduce use of fossil fuels.
- Teachers continued to include energy conservation information and practices into fifth-grade curriculum.
- The school participated in the food waste prevention pilot program led by Brian Olson, the district's food service director.
- Green Team members were trained by a King County Green Schools Program representative about how to correctly separate waste items to be recycled..
- The school promoted recycling and composting at school-wide and PTA-sponsored events. Starting September 2019, recycling and composting bins were placed at events, including the annual fundraising event.
- In fall 2019, the school switched to foam soap dispensers that limit the amount of soap released with each pump and reduce water needed to rinse hands.
- Green Team members served as lunchroom waste watchers, and, in February 2020, led gameshows about recycling and composting during lunch.
- In January 2020, students participated in a King County assembly to learn about the four Rs - rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle.