



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Cedar River Elementary School

**School District:** Tahoma

**School Location:** Maple Valley

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
September 2017

Note: The former school on this school's property earned Level One (waste reduction and recycling), Level Two (energy conservation), and Level Three (water conservation and pollution prevention) recognition in previous years.

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

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

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Cedar River Elementary School achieved a 60 percent recycling rate.
- Student helpers assisted daily in the lunchroom by monitoring waste stations and teaching students about how to properly sort waste.
- The school began giving "Green Paws" to students who sorted recyclable and compostable materials correctly. Students collected "Green Paws" to earn a prize.

### Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team encouraged all classrooms to participate in the People Power Planet energy conservation pledge.
- Green Team students helped turn off lights and electronics when not in use.



Green Team members create educational 3-dimensional signs to help students correctly sort garbage, recyclable materials, and compostable materials



Green Team students help with classroom buckets used for paper towels and other compostable materials



- Throughout the school year, the Green Team conducted classroom Power Patrols in which students recorded energy conservation practices and energy waste. Results and recommendation were shared with teachers and students.

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

- To conserve water, classroom sinks have aerators and bathroom sinks have timers.
- The school maintained a rain garden with drought-tolerant native plants which collect and filter runoff. A rain barrel captured water to irrigate the school's garden.

## **Sustaining Green School recognition**

Cedar River Elementary 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 did this is described below.

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

To improve lunchroom recycling, the Green Team created and posted visual displays to hang on a PVC sign holder to instruct students about correct waste sorting and about reducing contamination in each type of bin.

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

- A King County Green Schools Program representative conducted a presentation on waste reduction and recycling practices at an all-staff meeting and trained the student Green Team to monitor sorting practices in classrooms and in the lunchroom.
- Green Team students monitored waste sorting during first grade and kindergarten lunches. They handed out prizes to students who correctly sorted materials.
- Green Team students used plastic packaging and bottle caps to make key chains and ornaments.
- To reduce food waste, a share table was set up in the lunchroom so students can place unopened, packaged foods from the school lunch program for other students to take.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

---

- Fourth-grade students took a field trip to Shadow Lake Nature Preserve to learn about water ecosystems and the importance of conserving water and preventing water pollution.
- In April 2019, to celebrate Earth Month and prevent stormwater pollution, Green Team students participated in a school litter clean-up.
- Eight classrooms began collecting food scraps, napkins, and paper towels to be transported to a regional composting facility.
- Energy conservation signs were posted to inform and remind students and staff members to turn off lights and equipment when not in use.