



## Ella Baker Elementary School

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Redmond

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** February 2019

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2019

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in June 2020

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a recycling rate of 50 percent.
- To encourage waste reduction and recycling practices, the school shared announcements over the PA system and in the school newsletter.
- Fourth-grade and fifth-grade classes completed a variety of food waste reduction projects throughout the year and shared their results with staff members.
- The King County Going Green assembly was presented to all students and teachers.
- All classes incorporated lessons in sustainability into their curriculum.
- Students created presentations on how waste can impact orcas and salmon.
- The school switched from disposable trays and utensils in the lunchroom to reusable alternatives.
- Student and parent volunteers were trained to monitor and assist other students with lunchroom waste bin sorting.



Students created signs to help the school community sort lunchroom materials



Cafeteria waste sort station

### Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In the 2019-20 school year, to sustain and build on its waste reduction and recycling practices, the school started to collect food waste and other compostable materials in the lunchroom. Green Team students made signs showing



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

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what materials should be placed in each bin and they volunteered at the waste station to help others sort correctly. During the September 2019 Fun Run, the school's largest fundraising campaign, the PTSA gave winners waste-free prizes. In an October 2019 PTSA meeting, Green Team students shared information about waste reduction practices. During the cultural night in February 2020, the sustainability team worked with the cultural committee to reduce event-related waste. The Green Team helped with waste sorting during the event.

- To encourage energy conservation, Green Team students placed "Turn off the lights" stickers near manual light switches and distributed "Turn off equipment" signs to staff members to display near their classroom and office monitors. The Green Team also used a classroom Energy Conservation Pledge.
- After learning that laptops and tablets are the most used types of electronics by students and staff members, the Green Team created outreach and education about how to conserve energy when using those electronic devices.
- A PTA member created a PowerPoint presentation for students and staff members about energy conservation.
- Computers automatically were shut down through software, and printers were programmed to enter sleep mode when not in use. Teachers were encouraged to turn off smart boards, projectors, and document cameras when not in use. Teachers and staff members confirmed electronic devices were on energy efficient modes.
- The school district shared its policy prohibiting personal appliance use in classrooms.
- To reduce energy use, all after-hour activities were consolidated in the lunchroom, gym, or STEM Lab.
- All new buildings in the district have been constructed to meet Washington Sustainable School Protocol (WSSP) standards.