



## **Emily Dickinson Elementary School**

**School district:** Lake Washington

**School location:** Redmond

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** November 2018

**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)**

- Emily Dickinson Elementary increased its recycling rate from 49 percent to 62 percent.
- A King County representative trained 45 Green Team members from the third and fourth grades on how to monitor lunchroom recycling stations. The Green Team members rotated on a schedule to help monitor in two out of the three lunch periods.
- To promote waste reduction and recycling practices, the school made announcements through email, at staff meetings, and in student trainings.
- To reduce food waste, “Take or bring only what you will eat” messages were shared with students.
- The school used durable, reusable trays and unwrapped utensils, straws, and napkins in its cafeteria.
- A recycling bin with a recycling sign was paired with each garbage bin in classrooms, offices, the cafeteria, and other areas of the school.
- Six classrooms started to collect food scraps. Green Team members helped educate teachers and students how to sort correctly.
- The school reduced paper use by posting student assignments on PowerSchool and One Note, making double-sided copies, and writing on both sides of paper.
- The ASB created monthly reports about the school’s resource conservation practices and shared the achievements with all classes.

### **Energy Conservation (Level Two)**



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

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- To sustain waste reduction and recycling practices, Green Team students provided education and reminders about sorting recyclable materials and food scraps. Each month, the ASB, comprised of fifth-grade students, shared information with their buddy classes (Kindergarten to fourth grade) about reducing waste and recycling.
- During 2019-20, most classrooms started to collect food scraps. Student Green Team members collected the food scraps daily and added them to the cafeteria compost bins. Compostable materials collected at Emily Dickinson were composted at a regional composting facility.
- In fall 2019, Green Team students completed a sustainability workshop with local high school students.
- An energy monitor was added to the list of classroom jobs.
- Student Power Patrol members helped train other students to conduct energy audits with teacher Kelly Williams. Students conducted Power Patrol energy audits in each classroom, analyzed the data, and used it to recommend improved classroom energy conservation practices. Students also made signs to remind their classmates about those practices.
- Ms. Williams included energy conservation reminders in her morning announcements.
- Students and staff members walked around the school building to inspect door sweeps, windows, door jambs, and insulation, then noted what improvements could be made to conserve energy.
- The school district's policy prohibited personal appliance use in classrooms.
- At the end of each day, a software program shut down computers and printers were programmed to enter sleep mode. Teachers were encouraged to turn off smart boards, projectors, and document cameras when not in use.
- Teachers opened the blinds for natural lighting and used task lights instead of overhead lights when possible.