



Issaquah High School

School District: Issaquah

School Location: Issaquah

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved
in May 2011

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School: Achieved for

- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19



Earth Hero at School Award
Student Kate Brunette received the
King County award in April 2011

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Issaquah High School increased its recycling rate from 58 percent to 72 percent.
- When it joined the King County Green Schools Program, the school had a recycling rate of 16 percent, and increased its rate by initiating a school-wide program that included collection of recyclables in classrooms, offices, hallways, and lunchroom as well as the collection of compostable materials in the lunchroom. Recycling increases resulted in doubling outdoor recycling dumpster pick-ups and decreasing garbage pick-ups.
- Associated Student Body (ASB) and Leadership class members distributed recycling stickers that listed what can and can't be recycled to all classrooms. Recycling bins with signs were placed next to all garbage cans to encourage recycling and make it easier.
- In 2014-15, ASB students picked up litter after school sporting events.



- Students shared facts about recycling and the environmental impact of waste through morning announcements and posters hung throughout the hallways.
- In 2013-14, students participated in a school-wide lunchtime recycling contest.
- In April 2015, the school placed first in a district-wide waste-free Wednesday challenge in which students generated less than 1 ounce of waste per student.
- In 2014-15, student and staff leaders partnered with Cedar Grove Composting, Issaquah School District, and King County Green Schools Program to pilot bathroom paper towel composting.
- To encourage reduction of paper towel use, student leaders placed paper towel conservation signs on each school paper towel dispenser.
- With assistance from City of Issaquah and King County Green Schools Program, the school launched a program to collect compostable materials. ASB and Leadership class members monitored each lunchroom recycling station for the first two weeks of the program and educated the student body about what items can be collected for composting.
- Students created an educational video about what items can be collected for composting. The video aired during morning announcements. Students laminated fliers about compostable materials and posted them on all school compost bins.
- Information about how to sort compostable and recyclable materials was shared during an Earth Day lunch competition.
- The school collected printer cartridges for recycling.
- Teachers reduced paper use by using online drop-boxes for homework.
- Students participated in a social media photo contest to spread environmental awareness. Their artwork was displayed around the school.
- Student Sustainability Ambassadors hosted the Issaquah School District Green Team Summit in October 2014 and an Issaquah Community Sustainability Summit in April 2015.
- The leadership class used reusable items for decorating the Winterfest celebration and hired a company to set up lighting for school dances instead of using paper decorations.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students created a classroom conservation pledge to encourage students and staff to turn off lights and shut down computers when they are not in use, and to close blinds at the end of every day, while opening them during classes to make use of natural light.
- Energy conservation signs were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- Monthly emails regarding the school's energy use and energy conservation tips were sent to the school community.
- In 2013-14, students participated in a Clear the Lot campaign that rewarded students for walking, biking or carpooling to school.
- Assistant principal Adam Desautels worked with Chris Bruno to install LED lighting where possible.
- Lighting was set to turn off in unused school spaces.
- Using district-wide software, non-administrator computers were shut down automatically each evening to conserve energy.
- The school conducted a carpool survey, promoted a Carpool to School day, and encouraged carpooling in school video announcements.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- AP Environmental Science students learned about water conservation and climate change, where the school's drinking water goes after entering the drain, water availability and cleanliness, and waterborne illnesses.
- The school added a greenhouse in the school garden.
- AP Biology students learned about the human impacts on climate change and the consequences of water use.
- Marine Biology students learned about the effects of climate change on water quality.



- Biology classes filled vials with water from a natural body of water and tested turbidity, pH levels, and pollution.
- Global Studies classes learned about human interaction with water and water quality in different parts of the world.
- Rain gardens were planted in the parking lot of the new building to reduce runoff from heavy rains or storm water. This allowed surface water to filter through the plants before entering the drainage system via the concrete.
- The Green Team posted notices about water conservation in all bathroom stalls to educate students on ways to conserve water.
- Faucets were set to automatically shut off when not in use.
- Custodians cleaned school floors with floor cleaning machines that used up to 50 percent less water than mopping.
- Students and staff were reminded of the school's dual-flush low-flow toilets and how to properly use them to reduce water use.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Issaquah High 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 did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Staff members and students promoted practices to reduce paper use. The student Green Team gave a presentation at a staff meeting on Issaquah High's paper use compared to other Issaquah schools, how the school ran out of paper in 2014-15 before it was time to order more, and what staff members can do to reduce paper use.
- As of February 2016, the school had not run out of paper. Results of the school's paper reduction campaign were shared in announcements and at additional staff meetings.



Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Green Team students collected school commuter information and promoted carpooling to students and families through school newsletters.
- Students tracked data on parked cars and SOV drop-offs.
- The school posted no-idling in the parking lot in fall 2016 and the entire district installed signs in spring 2017.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Students helped pick up litter, remove invasive species around Lake Sammamish State Park, and plant trees behind the YMCA in Sammamish as part of community service projects sponsored by the National Honor Society.
- In May 2018, the school promoted Bike to School month and held a school beautification day.

Sustaining Green school 2018-19

- Student Green Team members collected 1,000 signatures on a petition to request a water bottle refilling station to be installed at their school to reduce single-use plastic bottles. The water bottle refilling station was installed in January 2019.
- The leadership class used reusable items to create decorations for dances and other school events.
- In February 2019, the Green Team hosted a Green Schools booth at Issaquah School District's STEMposium.
- The school began to collect used markers for Crayola's ColorCycle marker recycling program.
- The school continued to collect paper towels in restrooms for composting at a regional composting facility.

Award

Student Kate Brunette received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in spring 2011 for leading Issaquah High's recycling and composting programs.