



Lake Youngs Elementary School

School District: Kent

School Location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2009

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in April 2010

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

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

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019



Student Green Team
Green team students gather below their Green Schools banner.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Lake Youngs Elementary School maintained a 54 percent recycling rate.
- Stickers listing what can and can't be recycled were placed on recycling bins.
- The school held a King County recycling assembly in fall 2009 to kick-start their recycling efforts. Through this assembly, students were taught about which items can and cannot be recycled.
- The school increased classroom recycling and began to recycle bottles and milk cartons in the lunchroom.
- Students recycled chip bags, Capri Suns, and cookie wrappers through TerraCycle, a company that uses those materials to make new products. In 2010, the school earned about \$200 that was used for environmental activities.



- By reducing paper use and lunchtime waste, the school decreased its total solid waste by approximately 25 cubic yards per month which resulted in the school dumpster pickups being reduced by 50 percent.
- In 2010, with help from its PTA, the school raised over \$2,000 by hosting an electronic waste recycling event for the community.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- "Turn off Lights" stickers were posted near switches in all classrooms and offices to remind students and staff to turn them off when not in use.
- Head custodian Ruth Nowak created a student energy conservation team that helped to turn off lights in empty classrooms throughout the day.
- The Green Team included energy conservation facts and tips in announcements and on the school bulletin board.
- Each classroom assigned students to turn off computers and lights in unoccupied rooms. Most classrooms turned off the lights during lunchtime to help conserve energy.
- The school included energy conservation topics into classroom curriculum.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- "Turn off Faucet" signs were posted near all sinks to remind students and staff to turn off the water when not in use.
- Third-grade students planted trees and shared a presentation with other classrooms about the importance of clean water and a healthy environment.
- Fourth-grade students hatched and released salmon and discussed the importance of water conservation and keeping water clean.
- Classrooms participated in a water challenge to turn off faucets while soaping hands. Signs were posted in bathrooms to remind students about this practice.
- Students were taught how to report leaky bathroom and classroom faucets to custodians.
- The school installed low-flow toilets and faucets.
- To conserve water, the school used student power - hands and muscles - to clean courtyard drains without using hoses and pressure washers.



Sustaining Green School recognition

Lake Youngs 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 each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school used two compost digesters in the courtyard to compost garden and yard waste. The compost was used to replenish soil in the school garden.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school started a felt tip pen recycling program.
- Music choice classes performed a recycling skit for the school during the beginning of the year kickoff event.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The school expanded its recycling program by collecting plastic food containers from school lunches in addition to milk cartons.
- Green Team captains made posters educating students on what can be recycled and made classroom presentations about recycling prior to an all-school assembly.
- The Green Team presented about waste reduction practices at an all-school assembly.