

Liberty High School

School District: Issaquah

School Location: Renton

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 2013

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011
(Liberty High School completed Level Three prior to completing Level Two.)

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017



Liberty students take pride in a road clean-up effort near the school.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Liberty High School maintained a recycling rate of 71 percent.
- In 2010, with assistance from City of Issaquah, the school started to collect compostable materials in its lunchroom.
- Stickers listing what can and can't be recycled were placed on all recycling containers.
- The school reduced paper use by using electronic newsletters and fliers.
- To eliminate paper copies, teachers used electronic "drop boxes" for homework.
- Students made and hung posters around the school on waste reduction and conservation.
- Students started a printer cartridge recycling fundraiser that raised \$200 in 2009-10. Proceeds were used to buy native plants for campus beautification.



- The school increased signs in the lunchroom and included information in daily announcements about the importance of recycling and reducing waste.
- Students completed an Adopt-A-Road clean-up for Earth Day. The Earth Day clean-up crew collected approximately 30 bags of garbage.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The student Green Team promoted energy conservation through announcements and posters displayed throughout the school.
- Liberty High School dedicated one day of its March 2013 Sustainability Week to energy conservation. The student Green Team shared reminders and energy saving tips with staff and students. Other days during the Sustainability Week focused on waste reduction, water quality, green building design, and reducing carbon footprints.
- In 2012-13, the environmental science classes
 - Compared benefits and disadvantages of various energy sources.
 - Studied the school's real-time energy consumption using sensors in an on-site photovoltaic ray. Students analyzed and monitored the data and created graphs to identify and illustrate major changes or areas of improvement in energy use.
- The Issaquah School District specified in its contract with Coca-Cola that the vending machine display lights be permanently turned off to conserve energy.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Students regularly checked for water leaks on the campus.
- Throughout the year, the Green Team created and hung posters about the importance of conserving water.
- The school collaborated with Sustainability Ambassadors to deliver Storm Water Systems Thinking Curriculum to educate students and empower them to take action to help solve storm water pollution challenges.
- Students helped design a rain garden as part of the school's modernization and sustainability plan.



Sustaining Green School recognition

- Liberty 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 built on its Level One through Three practices is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Student Sustainability Ambassadors worked with consultant Peter Donaldson on school conservation efforts and led a student ambassador summit at Issaquah High School in fall 2016.
- Students adopted a highway and conducted litter pickups twice each year.
- The Green Team created a new sign-holder for the recycling and waste stations in the cafeteria to help students sort waste properly.
- In 2013, the Physettes student group raised money for tree planting in the local watershed.
- Teacher Kaela Yuen:
 - Spoke at a staff meeting on the school's Green School goals and shared the district's lunchroom waste report with all staff.
 - Spoke at a staff meeting to prepare staff members for waste-free Wednesday campaigns in the lunchroom. Waste-free lunch tips and reminders were shared through the school's broadcast system.
 - Created and administered a staff survey to determine recycling set-up in each classroom and overall interest from staff in waste reduction and recycling at school.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The Green Team, Sustainability Ambassadors, King County Green Schools Program, and City of Issaquah planned and held an all-district high school meeting for Issaquah School District's Green Teams. The students shared best practices and programs from their schools and brainstormed specific ways they could strengthen their Green Teams.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The Green Team organized a campus cleanup day after winter break. Waste was separated from compost during cleanup and a total of 41.9 pounds of waste was collected in one hour.
- In conjunction with the district waste-free Wednesday program and Liberty CARE Week (week long program about leadership and community at Liberty following spring break), the Green Team held a waste-free Wednesday event. The event was advertised with posters and daily announcements. The Green Team set up a trash-on-the-tarp program during both lunches, coordinated with the custodial staff, and helped their peers separate waste into trash, recyclable materials and compostable materials. A total of 12.04 pounds of trash, 38.30 pounds of compost, and 11.90 pounds of recyclable materials was gathered.

For more information about the school's conservation achievements and participation in the Green Schools Program, contact:

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