



## Meridian Park Elementary School

**School District:** Shoreline

**School Location:** Shoreline

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
September 2016

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in January 2017

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



Signs remind students what can and cannot be collected for recycling and composting.

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meridian Park Elementary School increased its recycling rate from 45 percent to 64 percent in the 2018-19 school year.
- The school started collecting recyclable and compostable materials in the cafeteria in October 2016.
- Green Team students and parent volunteers were trained on what can and can't be recycled and composted.
- Green Team students:
  - Created recycling and waste station signs to remind students and staff members how to sort materials during lunch.
  - Created sweatshirts and gave them to custodial and kitchen staff members as a thank you for supporting the lunchroom recycling program.
- All grade levels monitored recycling and waste stations during their lunch periods. Second-grade students monitored the Kindergarten lunch period in addition to their own.



- The school placed a recycling container next to each garbage bin in the lunchroom and in every classroom and office, and placed recycling signs from the Green Schools Program on each recycling container.
- Waste reduction and recycling reminders and successes were included in lunch announcements and in the school's Cheetah Chatter Newsletter.
- Teachers posted student assignments on their teacher webpages instead of printing them on paper.
- To reduce paper use, the school encouraged all staff members to print double-sided whenever possible.
- In the 2018-19 school year, a survey was conducted in the school to determine which conservation projects to pursue. Results showed the most popular one was to replace plastic single-use utensils with durable, reusable utensils. School and district employees worked together to determine the feasibility of switching to durable utensils.
- During the 2018-19 school year, Meridian Park collected used paper towels in restrooms for transport to a regional composting facility and conducted a "ban the bottle" campaign to raise awareness about environmental problems caused by single-use plastics and to encourage the school community to switch to reusable bottles. The school also collected plastic bags to be recycled.
- In 2018-19, the food donation program donated 2,481 pounds of food that would otherwise have been wasted and the parent volunteers helped deliver them to Hopelink, a nonprofit food distribution organization.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- District resource conservation manager Matt Daly created an energy use chart monthly and identified and investigated anomalies. He shared the charts electronically with the community along with long term conservation goals.
- During the weekly blast, the school shared conservation fact, tip, and practices with students and staff members.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

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- Green Team students engaged in conversation with teachers to educate students and staff members about the school's energy conservation goals and results.
- The lights were turned off in unoccupied spaces, and daylight was used instead of electric lights when adequate outdoor light was available.
- Restrooms installed occupancy sensors.
- Announcements were made to encourage students and staff members to dress appropriately for the season, and thermostats were set between 68 to 70 degrees.
- The school followed the weekend and vacation shut-down procedures, and all HVAC systems were set off during weekends, holidays, and extended breaks.