



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

North Bend Elementary School

School District: Snoqualmie Valley

School Location: Snoqualmie

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in June 2009

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved
in June 2010

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

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

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
Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- North Bend Elementary achieved a recycling rate of 47 percent.
- In 2009, 12 students from third, fourth and fifth-grade classes formed the Groovin' Green Team led by teacher Meredith von Trapp.
- Recycling bins provided by the Green Schools Program were added to the lunchroom for milk



North Bend Elementary School's 2013 Green Team



Students received King County Green Team reusable water bottles

3. Teach others to take care of our water.



Wear Blue on Friday to show you care!

Wear blue for water day slide shared with the entire school



Recycle bin inventory team



cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans and to classrooms for recyclable materials such as paper.

- The Green Team created an Earth Day display for the school called “Every Day is Earth Day...50 Ways to Reduce Your Ecological Footprint.”
- Teachers placed stickers provided by King County Green Schools Program on all recycling bins showing what can and cannot be recycled.
- The school initiated a waste-free Wednesday campaign to encourage students to pack lunches in reusable or recyclable containers. Students created skits and presented them in each classroom to share ideas for going waste free and to encourage participation.
- Green Team students presented the school community with 50 creative, inspiring ways to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Staff members taught students about recycling and students educated their peers about why recycling is important.
- Parent volunteers wrote recycling articles for the parent newsletter and served as monitors in the lunchroom.
- The Groovin’ Green Team used afternoon recess to conduct litter pick-ups and educate others about keeping the planet clean and healthy.
- Staff created reusable party kits for each classroom that include durable plates, bowls, silverware, cups, and napkins.



2017-18 Green Team



Green Team sorted bottle caps to create a mural of Mt. Rainer

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers were placed near all light switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- North Bend Elementary conducted a school-wide challenge for students to pledge to reduce the amount of energy they use.
- The Green Team posted end of day checklists to help classrooms conserve energy.



- The school regularly provided energy conservation reminders and tips to students, staff, and parents through morning announcements and emails.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- The school used low-flow toilets and motion sensor faucets to conserve water.
- Green Team students regularly shared water conservation and pollution prevention tips and resources in announcements and in emails to staff.
- The Green Team conducted a water audit to measure faucet water flows and look for any leaks as well as standing water.
- In 2009, through Nature Vision, an environmental education group, several fourth and fifth-grade students built a native plant nature trail, including a butterfly garden, behind the school's portables.
- All fifth-grade classes participated in a walking field trip to investigate the ecological health of the Snoqualmie River through water chemistry and identification of macro-invertebrates. Students posted their results in a global database that promotes water conservation activities in schools around the world.
- Students conducted experiments outside by digging holes for compostable materials and analyzing the decomposition rates of different materials.
- The Green Team created a pledge form about conserving water and reducing the use of disposable plastic bottles and initiated a classroom challenge to get the most pledges completed.
- In the parent newsletter, the school shared its water conservation goals and its success completing criteria for King County Level Three Green Schools.
- With the help of parent volunteers, teacher Meredith Von Trapp designed a system for watering the school garden using captured water from the school's rain barrels.

Sustaining Green School recognition

- The 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

- Students created new posters about what can and cannot be recycled and displayed the posters in both the lunchroom and common areas.
- Green Team members monitored lunch cleanup and recycling.
- On Earth Day in April, the school shared videos with all students and staff members to remind them about what every person can do to take care of our earth.
- To encourage water conservation, the team posted conservation reminder notes on bathroom mirrors and made a video to explain the notes to the school community.
- Green Team members inventoried and cleaned all informational notes about energy conservation that were displayed on computers and lights.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school started an Animals and the Environment project to connect the concepts of waste reduction, recycling, and energy and water conservation to protection of native animals in the area. The project included a Green Team learning and planning workshop and the creation of interactive bulletin boards throughout the school.
- Teachers began using compostable K-cups in their Keurig coffee machines.
- The school designed and planned a Green Week with daily activities, announcements, and celebrations for the entire school.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The Green Team made several videos about how everyday conservation actions can help protect the environment.
- The school held an Earth Spirit month in April in which students wore a different color and performed actions each week related to the week's conservation goal.
- Students assessed the school's waste sorting practices and created new signs and sorting education tools to share with their peers.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students met for 30 minutes every week to evaluate current conservation practices and to design solutions and improvements.



- They hosted an assembly and follow-up workshops to aid their outreach about waste reduction and about reducing contamination in recycling bins.
- Students collected and sorted bottle caps to create a mural of Mt. Rainer.
- The school recycled ink cartridges and phone batteries for the community through Funding Factory (a free recycling fundraiser for schools and nonprofits that collect empty toner and inkjet printer cartridges).

Awards

- North Bend Elementary School received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2009.
- Teacher Meredith von Trapp received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015.