

Pine Lake Middle School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Sammamish

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
January 2007

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2012

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2014

Sustaining Green School: Achieved in

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20

A leader in the district

- Pine Lake Middle School was the first school in Issaquah School District to complete Level One of the King County Green Schools Program. Thanks to Pine Lake's efforts and achievements, other Issaquah schools improved their conservation practices by participating in the program.
- The school's core values posters were updated to include its Green School values.



Pine Lake's Ecology Youth Service Corps conducted a campus-wide clean up



Students participated in a spring bulb planting day



Students planted donated daffodil and tulip bulbs



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a recycling rate of 40 percent.
- Staff members collected compostable materials during staff meetings and added collection containers to staff break rooms.
- Issaquah School District provided a recycling container located at the school entrance next to the garbage bin to increase recycling from families and visitors.
- Sixth-grade students maintained worm bins in each of their classrooms.
- All Pine Lake classes received King County waste reduction and recycling classroom workshops.
- Students created posters for the hallway and lunchroom waste stations showing which items could be composted and recycled, and which items must be placed in garbage containers.
- Sixth-grade classes took part in King County Biospheres and Food for Thought classroom workshops.
- The student Earth Conservation Corps ran a bottle cap recycling campaign in January 2012. They showed an educational PowerPoint for three days in the lunchroom and played a cap toss recycling game in the lunchroom to encourage students to collect bottle caps from home and at school for recycling.
- During lunchtime, students who were tardy to class were given the responsibility of monitoring garbage/recycling/compost stations and helping students sort their lunch waste. The monitors received an overview of how to operate the station before helping other students.
- Three times each year, the school conducted a zero waste locker clean out in which students recycled or donated their unwanted school supplies.
- In 2007, the school started to collect recyclable and compostable materials in its lunchroom.
- Recycling bins provided by the King County Green Schools Program were added to the lunchroom for compostable materials and for recyclable materials such as milk cartons, juice boxes, plastic bottles and aluminum cans.



Solar panel powers the cistern pump in the school garden



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Twelve Pine Lake staff members formed a Green Team and led conservation efforts at the school.
- Students placed recycling stickers listing what can and can't be recycled on all recycling bins.
- To prepare for food scrap recycling collection, more than 40 students volunteered to create signs, monitor lunchroom recycling stations, and educate fellow students. Several students created a video about food scrap recycling that was shown throughout the school.
- Recycling bins were paired with garbage cans and color-coded to make disposal easier and clearer.
- A group of Pine Lake students participated in the Student to Student Sustainability Summit in October 2016.
- The school participated in a waste-free Wednesday annual competition and waste-free lunches were promoted via student broadcast.
- Student Earth Service Corps held a recruitment campaign in fall 2016 that included posters, a PPT, eco-themed trivia done during lunches and an environmentally themed film series shown on rainy days after school.
- Ms. Rowland attended district-wide Green Team meetings in October, January, and March.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school's e-newsletter and daily bulletins provided energy conservation tips. Bi-weekly tips were given in April leading up to Earth Day.
- During winter months, students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season and to keep thermostats set at 68 to 72 degrees.
- School computers were automatically shut down every night by district software.
- Lights in the school's vending machines were permanently turned off.
- Occupancy sensors were installed in frequently used rooms, ensuring the lights were turned off when not in use.
- The Ecology Youth Service Corps after-school club created an energy patrol checklist and performed inspections in classrooms, as well as offered feedback and suggestions for improvement.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Energy conservation signs were placed by light switches to remind students and staff members to turn them off.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Pine Lake made announcements about water conservation and pollution prevention throughout the year.
- Water conservation signs were posted near sinks and faucets to remind staff members and students to turn off the faucets when not in use.
- During staff meetings, staff Green Team members presented information, goals and success stories related to water conservation.
- Earth Service Core students tested the flow of each school faucet and recommended adding additional aerators where needed.
- To water its gardens, Pine Lake received a rainwater collection and drip irrigation systems for its interior courtyard from Cascade Water Alliance.
- In 2013, Pine Lake held a spring bulb community planting day. More than 1,000 drought-tolerant daffodil and tulip bulbs, which do not require extra watering beyond rainfall, were donated and planted. Over 50 students volunteered at the event and were educated on why these bulbs conserve water.
- Earth Service Corps, a student group, posted signs and weeded non-native plants in the school's gardens.
- In homeroom classes and during lunches, the school showed a video about how to prevent littering and pollution.
- The student Earth Service Corps helped remove invasive species and perform litter pickups around the school to protect storm drains and prevent pollution.



Sustaining Green School recognition

Pine Lake Middle School sustained its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation and pollution prevention strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

- Over 20 students promoted, led and monitored a locker clean out, resulting in increased recycling and salvage of reusable items along with reduced garbage going to the landfill.
- Several students participated in the Issaquah Sustainability Ambassadors Summit and shared what they learned with the rest of the school population.
- The Green Team created a permanent donation station in the school hallway for school supplies, including pencil containers in which students may place extra unwanted pencils found on the floor or take pencils if they need one.
- The school placed two outdoor recycling containers by the school track field to increase recycling during sporting events.
- Pine Lake participated in a waste-free Wednesday campaign in the lunch room in April 2015. Students weighed the garbage for the Issaquah School District Earth Day competition.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- The school increased the frequency of waste-free lunches from once each year to weekly. Waste-free Wednesdays were promoted in the student bulletin, school e-newsletter and a student-made video.
- Students held a lunchtime Trashion Show by showcasing outfits they made from reused materials.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school began collecting compostable materials during staff meetings (PTA provides breakfast buffet) and switched to using unlined paper compostable plates.
- The Student Earth Service Corps hosted a guest speaker who discussed climate change and the carbon tax initiative on the November ballot.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Students went on a field trip to Camp Terry where they dissected salmon to learn more about them and to plant herbs to take home to grow and eat.
- The Green Team created an Energy Vampire skit video to share during the school's talent show.
- In October 2017, a Pine Lake student representative attended the waste reduction and recycling leadership summit.
- In January 2018, sixth-grade classes received King County's Consumption Junction workshops.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- In September 2018, student representatives attended the leadership summit and created a video for Earth Week to share with the school during homeroom classes.
- Student Green Team members met weekly, wrote PA announcements about conservation, made conservation posters, and created a variety of educational topics for Earth Week.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- The Green Team met weekly to talk about recycling and composting, and to think about effective ways to encourage students to sort materials correctly. Students also created scripts and practiced their speeches to prepare for lunchtime presentations.
- In December 2019, as part of their research on sustainable buildings, students created a sustainable gingerbread house with solar panels and other sustainable elements.
- In January 2020, students participated in lunchroom conversations about environmental issues. Using a spinning wheel game called "What would Greta do," students selected and discussed environmental topics and sustainable actions they could take.
- In February 2020, the Green Team held a "Fun Friday" lunchtime activity where students participated in a sorting relay race to learn to recycle correctly.
- In Fall 2019, students visited Pickering Barn, a local community garden, before it was bulldozed, to salvage food crops and native species. The students transplanted

the crops and native species in a garden at Camp Perry. Food grown in the garden was given to the local food bank.

- Through a YMCA partnership, students participated in Camp Steller field trips to remove invasive species.

Awards

- Meagan Elliot, school counselor, received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2010.
- The Green Team at Pine Lake Middle School received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2010.