

## Ridgecrest Elementary School

**School District:** Shoreline

**School Location:** Shoreline

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
January 2014

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2015

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2018



The PTA Green Team display case located near the front

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ridgecrest Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 50 percent.
- The school initiated a milk carton recycling program in its cafeteria.
- Ongoing waste reduction and recycling education was provided to the school through student council members, all-school assemblies, classroom presentations, and posters created by Green Team students.
- The student council created and performed a skit to remind students and staff about what materials can and cannot be recycled.
- The Green Team trained other students to serve as cafeteria recycling and waste station monitors and conducted lessons in each classroom about what can and can't be recycled in classrooms and the cafeteria.
- Ridgecrest installed a hallway display case to share the Green Team's efforts and successes as well as waste reduction and recycling tips.
- Green Team members shared waste reduction and recycling actions and reminders regularly through weekly announcements.
- Student groups worked with the custodians to perform litter pick up during lunch.
- Ridgecrest collected used markers for recycling.



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- Parent volunteer Missy Liu presented waste reduction and recycling practices at a PTA meeting, and parent volunteers assisted students with monitoring cafeteria milk carton recycling.
- The school created G.O.O.S. (Good on One Side) paper reuse boxes for each classroom, and a recycling container was placed in every classroom.
- Students regularly emptied classroom recycling bins into larger hallway recycling bins, and head custodian Mr. Burke then emptied hallway, office, and cafeteria recycling bins into outdoor recycling containers.

## Energy Conservation (Level One)

- “Turn off Lights” and “Turn off Equipment” signs were placed near all classroom and common area light switches and computer pods as a reminder to students and staff to turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
- The school shared energy conservation tips through regular morning announcements and in the school’s newsletter.
- Teacher Liz Whitney included lessons about how energy conservation can help protect salmon in her curriculum.
- Daylight was used in classrooms instead of electric lights whenever possible.
- Occupancy sensors were installed in all main restrooms to help conserve energy.
- Ridgecrest made regular announcements to encourage students and staff to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust thermostat.
- The Green Team helped the custodians check at the end of each day that all lights and equipment were turned off and all doors, windows, and blinds were shut to help keep heat in and conserve energy.

## Awards

- Ridgecrest Elementary School received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015 for its effective recycling program.



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# *Success Story*

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

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