

Secondary Academy for Success

School District: Northshore

School Location: Bothell

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
In 2006, then again in April 2012

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2013

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in February 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)

- Secondary Academy for Success maintained a recycling rate of 93 percent.
- The school placed recycling bins next to garbage cans in every classroom and students emptied recycling bins daily.
- Ongoing announcements describing the school's waste reduction and recycling efforts were made during employee meetings, school assemblies, homeroom classes, and in the school bulletin.



Students and teacher Judy Ellis promote recycling of aluminum cans.



Teachers Judy Ellis and Dawn McArthur train students how to properly sort their cafeteria recyclable and compostable materials.



Students and staff members collect compostable materials after lunch at 21 Acres, an organic farm that partners with the school.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Ninth-grade students completed a waste audit each Wednesday to determine what was routinely disposed of at the school and what materials could be recycled instead of thrown away.
- At the beginning of 2011, each student was given a reusable water bottle as an incentive to use the newly installed water bottle filling stations. By the end of October 2011, the school reduced its use of plastic water bottles by more than 1,000.
- In 2014, the school received a grant from Donors Choose for more reusable water bottles for students.
- Newspaper deliveries to the school were eliminated.
- The school collected shoes for recycling through Nike.
- To reduce paper use, one-sided paper reuse boxes were added in every classroom and the computer lab to use when needed.
- The school purchased recycled content copy paper.
- The school recycled 100 percent of its aluminum cans. In November 2012, the Green Team registered the school's aluminum can collection program in the Great American Roundup aluminum can drive.
- In May 2012, the school started to collect food scraps and other compostable materials. King County Green Schools and Cedar Grove Composting trained students on how to properly sort recyclable and compostable lunchroom items.
- To reduce food waste, a lunchroom share table was set up for unwanted and unopened breakfast items served by the school to be redistributed.
- Food services employee Leanne Norman supported school recycling efforts by sorting recyclable and compostable kitchen waste.
- A Green School's representative presented to the entire school about how to recycle properly and why waste reduction and recycling practices are important.
- Students and employees created 3-dimensional signs with actual recyclable materials to help students properly sort materials in the lunchroom.
- Custodian Tom Swap collected lunchroom and kitchen recyclable and compostable materials daily. To reduce plastic bag waste, he combined garbage in one bag whenever possible.



Students and staff work at 21 acres, an organic farm where students learn skills.



- To reduce waste, all lunchroom dishes and utensils were durable or compostable, and bulk condiment dispensers were used in the lunchroom.
- The school held an orientation at the start of the year to teach students how to sort waste correctly. Follow-up reminders and tips were shared throughout the year through announcements and posters.
- Ninth-grade Social Studies and twelfth-grade Senior Issues classes included waste reduction and recycling topics in their lessons.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- A beginning of the year assembly reminded students to conserve energy.
- Green Team members created Power Down for the Planet signs placed near classroom doors as reminders to turn off lights and electronics when not in use.
- The school installed a solar panel to generate clean, renewable energy and conserve energy from the electrical grid.
- Occupancy sensors were installed on lights in frequently used rooms.
- The school's Energy Star vending machine was set on a timer to turn off at night to reduce energy use.
- All windows and doors were kept closed while heating/cooling systems were on.
- The school reduced its electricity usage by 19 percent in 2013-14.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- To encourage the use of tap water in reusable bottles rather than single-use plastic bottles, the Green Team conducted a survey and a taste test about tap water versus bottled water during an all-school assembly.
- Ninth-grade students toured King County's South Wastewater Treatment Plant in Renton, and learned about drought-tolerant plants, water conservation in agriculture, and how to grow microgreens while volunteering at 21 Acres farm.
- Students toured the Duwamish River, the Ballard Locks, and Issaquah Salmon Hatchery to learn how pollution affects waterways and fish.
- Water conservation tips and facts were included in the school bulletin each month.
- A water efficient dishwasher was installed in the culinary arts classroom.
- All faucets were equipped with aerators and motion sensors to conserve water.



Sustaining Green School recognition

The school received recognition for sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation and pollution prevention actions. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Teacher Dawn McArthur's students visited Crystal Springs Elementary School multiple times to teach the students how to sort their waste for recycling.
- The school succeeded in meeting its goal to divert 7,000 single-use plastic water bottles from going to the landfill in January 2016. Success was measured using the school's hydration station, which automatically tracks each time someone refills a durable, reusable water bottle.
- Students partnered with 21 Acres farm to develop a seed to salad program. Students received seeds that matured in the school's greenhouse, and the vegetables were transplanted to 21 Acres where the students returned in June for the annual volunteer field day and picnic. Students helped remove invasive blackberries and assisted with pesticide-free gardening.
- In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the school placed second in the *Great American Can Roundup*, a national aluminum can recycling contest.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- A group of students visited Crystal Springs Elementary to teach a trash sorting lesson. Afterwards they helped third-grade students make posters that showed which items belonged in recycling and garbage bins.
- A student artist created signs highlighting the school's green features. The signs were displayed next to the features including the school's art and edible garden, solar panel, garden composting area, greenhouse, water bottle refilling station, and waste recycling station.



Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The Green Team started a campaign with the goal of making the school a plastic bottle free building. Students created and shared presentations in classrooms about plastic and its impact on the environment.
- Secondary Academy students visited Canyon Creek Elementary to teach their students about recycling.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- At an all-school assembly in September 2018, students participated in a scavenger hunt to learn about the school's sustainability practices.
- Students planted microgreens in the greenhouse to learn about nutrition and how to reduce their carbon footprints.
- The school took a field trip to 21 Acres farm to learn about sustainable farming.
- Students made homemade hand lotion to decrease the use of plastic packaging.
- Students created a giant octopus and ocean backdrop to raise awareness about the loss of coral reef around the planet.

Awards

- In May 2015, teacher Judy Ellis received a King County Earth Heroes at School award for leading the school's recycling program since 2005.
- In 2012, the school was one of four Washington schools and one of 78 schools nationwide to receive the first U.S. Green Ribbon School award.