



## **Sequoyah Middle School**

**School District:** Federal Way

**School Location:** Auburn

**Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:** March 2009

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

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in November 2010

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in February 2013

**Sustaining Green School 2014-15:** Achieved in May 2015

**Sustaining Green School 2017-18:** Achieved in May 2018

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Sequoyah Middle School maintained a recycling rate of 66 percent by focusing on classroom and lunchroom recycling and collecting compostable materials.
- Recycling bins and signs were set up in the school's lunchroom.
- Student leadership team members monitored garbage, recycling, and composting in the lunchroom on a daily basis.
- The Green Team demonstrated how to sort recyclable materials at several all-school assemblies.
- At the beginning of the year, school waste reduction, recycling, and sorting expectations were shared with all students.
- In 2011-12, leadership classes led a campaign to encourage reuse practices such as using durable water bottles instead of purchasing single-use plastic water bottles. The campaign included the sale of durable water bottles decorated with the school's logo.
- Staff Green Schools' team members met monthly to set goals for waste reduction, recycling, wetlands restoration, and energy conservation. They pursued educational opportunities for themselves and their students, including attending conferences and workshops about conservation practices.
- Leadership classes engaged in environmental projects each quarter.



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- Green Team students prepared waste reduction and recycling tips for the school's monthly newsletter.
- In 2014-15, an all-school assembly included a waste sorting competition.

## **Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- Energy conservation tips and reminders were shared regularly through signs and announcements.
- Leadership classes conducted energy surveys, observed energy use in the school office, classrooms and restrooms, and made suggestions for improvements.
- The school was involved in the Rebuild Haiti project. Students used webcams to communicate with Haitian students, engineers, and teachers three times each year to help them develop energy-friendly buildings as they rebuilt schools following the devastating earthquake in 2010.
- School thermostats were tested and adjusted.
- In the school newsletter, students shared information about dressing appropriately for the season rather than adjusting the thermostat.

## **Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)**

- Leadership students posted messages about water conservation on the school's reader board and asked students to sign pledges to conserve water.
- Seventh-grade science classes completed a water cycle unit and created posters for the school.
- Students completed a conservation survey developed by students at Skyview Junior High School (Northshore School District) which also received recognition as a King County Green School.
- The school installed automatic shut-off faucets in bathroom sinks. Kitchen staff monitored water use while maintaining health codes.

## **Sustaining Green School recognition**

- Sequoyah sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water



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conservation strategies. Described below is how the school earned this recognition in 2014-15 and in 2017-18.

## **Sustaining Green School 2014-15**

- The school hosted a “Clothes for Cause” textile recycling drive to raise funds and awareness among students and staff members about textile recycling. Students collected approximately 6,000 pounds of unwanted textiles to be resold or repurposed. The drive’s success was shared with the school community.

## **Sustaining Green School 2017-18**

- The Environmental Club planned and carried out a Green Spirit week to draw attention to five different environmental issues. The event included different actions each day students could perform at school to support the initiative.

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

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