



Snoqualmie Elementary School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: Snoqualmie

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
March 2007

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 2013

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

Sustaining Green School 2019-20:
Achieved in December 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school reached a recycling rate of 63 percent by expanding classroom recycling and starting a lunchtime recycling program.



Teacher Jennifer Gjurasic receives King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2013



The school set up recycling bins and signs for its June 2009 field day



Earth Hero at School 2008



- In 2009, teachers led a reusable bag and reusable water bottle campaign as a school fundraiser.
- Staff members worked with the district to eliminate plastic silverware, clam shells, and polystyrene (also called Styrofoam) bowls in the lunchroom.
- Recycling bins provided by King County Green Schools Program were added to classrooms to collect paper and other recyclable materials, and to the lunchroom to collect empty milk cartons, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans.
- All classrooms participated in the school-wide recycling program.
- With the help of district groundskeepers, garbage and recycling bins were placed side by side in key areas on school grounds.
- School staff placed recycling stickers listing what can and can't be recycled on all classroom and lunchroom recycling bins.
- The Green Team initiated waste-free Wednesdays to encourage students to bring durable and recyclable lunch containers from home. Lunchroom garbage volumes were reduced by 80 percent on waste-free Wednesdays.
- Kitchen staff started to recycle empty steel cans.
- Students created paper reuse boxes for classrooms to collect and use paper only used on one side, helped with recycling collection, and worked on litter reduction campaigns.
- To limit paper handouts, teachers instead used technology whenever possible.
- In 2012, the district installed a Paper Cut program to track the number of copies made from every computer.
- The school reduced paper use by sending its parent newsletter electronically and adopting two math programs that allowed students to complete tests and assignments online.
- The school collected plastic bags, eyeglasses, cell phones, printer cartridges, and glue sticks for recycling by special programs that handle those materials.
- Thanks to increased waste reduction and recycling, the school downsized its garbage collection service to one eight-yard container.
- The Green Team made a presentation to the school board about the school's waste reduction and recycling successes.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers were placed near all light switches to remind students, employees, and visitors to turn off the lights when not in use.
- Snoqualmie Elementary conducted a school challenge for students to pledge to reduce the amount of energy they use at school and at home.
- A student energy monitor in each classroom helped turn off any unnecessary electronics, and end of the day checklists were provided to every classroom to help conserve energy.
- The school reduced energy use by installing automatic computer shutdowns at the end of every school day.
- The school conducted a no-idling campaign. Students made signs, talked with parent drivers about turning off engines when picking up and dropping off their children, and included information about avoiding idling in electronic newsletters.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation signs were posted above all classroom and bathroom sinks.
- The Green Team created a water conservation pledge which students took home to discuss and sign with their families. Students who returned the signed pledge received a green leaf to place on the school's "green tree," which is a wall display in the shape of a tree to showcase the student pledges.
- Teachers included water conservation topics in their lesson plans.
- The school nurse presented to classes about the importance of washing hands and reminded students to conserve water by turning off the faucet while soaping hands and after rinsing.
- The school replaced all old fixtures with water-efficient fixtures.
- Leaky faucets were immediately reported for repair to custodian Greg Rutledge.
- In May 2013, students went on a field trip to the school's wetlands to view invertebrates and test the water quality.



Sustaining Green School recognition

The school was recognized as a Sustaining Green School by sustaining and building 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

- The Green Team spent time in the lunchroom reminding students how to sort correctly, and students used the school intercom twice each month to talk about what can and can't be recycled at school.
- The school promoted waste-free Wednesdays and Green Team students rewarded students that brought waste-free lunches from home.
- Students created posters about waste reduction and reuse practices and placed the posters throughout the school. They made sure every classroom had a GOOS (Good-on-one-side) bin for paper that had been used only on one side.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Students created four short videos focusing on different aspects of waste reduction. The students presented the videos in all classrooms.
- Green Team members visited each classroom on Friday afternoons to remind teachers to turn off their lights and computers.
- Emails were sent to staff reminding them about the school's green practices and how they connect to what they were teaching in the classroom
- Once a month, Green Team members took turns standing in bathrooms to help remind younger students about turning the water off when washing their hands.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The Green Team wrote and performed a new recycling song.
- Students made and displayed ladybug magnets made out of repurposed materials.



- Environmental topics were integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels.
 - First-grade students studied the sun, moon, and stars, and made observations about the environment.
 - Second-grade students examined life cycles and rocks.
 - Third-grade students studied the sun, moon, stars, weather, and salmon habitats.
 - Fourth-grade students studied the solar system and structures of life including crayfish and shrimp.
 - Fifth-grade students learned about the earth's changing surfaces, and studied heredity and adaptation.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students completed plastic pollution reduction projects:
 - Students collected empty containers and decorated them to be used as plastic bag holders. They delivered a plastic bag holder to each classroom and explained the importance of reusing plastic bags and ensuring they do not become litter or end up in landfills and oceans.
 - Students created a slideshow for every teacher to show their class.
 - Each student created an art piece with used bottle caps and shared information with their families about how to reduce plastic pollution.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- At the October 2019 all-school assembly, the school's sustainability actions were shared and students were invited to join the Green Team.
- Starting November 2019, one to three times each month in the lunchroom, Green Team students rewarded students who had brought waste-free lunches.
- In November 2019, Green Team students distributed an energy monitor job checklist for each classroom. The energy monitor was in charge of turning off the lights and projector when leaving the classroom. Also in November, student water conservationists visited restrooms during recess to remind students to turn off the water while soaping hands.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In January 2020, Green Team students started planning a music video about recycling and created a litter patrol to pick up litter around campus and quiz fellow students about how they could help reduce litter and pollution at school and at home. Students received prizes for good answers. These actions inspired additional students to follow the litter patrol and pick up litter.

Awards

The school received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2009 for achieving a culture of environmental stewardship where conservation is a daily practice and a natural part of school curriculum and for encouraging other schools in the district to do the same.