



Southwood Elementary School

School District: Enumclaw

School Location: Enumclaw

Began participating in Green Schools Program: November 2008

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2017

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Southwood Elementary achieved a recycling rate of 52 percent.
- Thanks to effective waste reduction and recycling practices, the frequency of garbage collection was decreased from every day to three times per week, saving the school \$200 each month.
- Morning announcements were used to promote the school's waste reduction and recycling efforts.
- Parent volunteers conducted a plastic bag recycling campaign.
- The school began to recycle milk cartons campus wide.
- Recycling bins provided by the King County Green Schools Program were added to each classroom for paper and for empty plastic bottles and aluminum cans.
- Recycling stickers were placed on all recycling bins. Provided by the Green Schools Program, the stickers list what can and can't be recycled.
- In 2018-2019, Southwood
 - Started to collect paper towels in restrooms for transport to a regional composting facility. Green Team students created signs and performed a skit at an all-school assembly to introduce the school community to paper towel collection.
 - Used reusable trays and utensils to reduce waste in lunchroom.



- Made announcements and signs about “Trash Art” competition, which encouraged students to make a piece of art using recyclable or reusable materials. Student art pieces were displayed at school during Earth Week.
- Maintained the lunchroom share table which allows students to place or take unopened, packaged food items from the school lunch program to reduce food waste.
- The Green Team organized a reusable water bottle campaign and promoted the use of reusable water bottles during assemblies, and through announcements and a game show.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school created a Power Ranger role which put students in charge of turning off lights, shutting down computers, etc. at the end of each day.
- The Green Team placed signs near light switches to encourage students and staff to turn off lights in unoccupied places.
- Green Team students wrote, rehearsed, and conducted a presentation about lights, electronics, and conservation.
- Green Team students presented energy conservation goals and tips at an all-staff meeting in spring 2017.
- In most rooms in the school, lights were set up to shut off automatically in when the spaces were unoccupied. Lights and electronic equipment were shut off on non-school days.
- Fluorescent bulbs were used in school fixtures and LED bulbs were given to teachers for use in lamps.
- Thermostat temperatures were set between 68 and 71 degrees and were turned off in the summer.
- Hot water pipes were kept insulated and water temperatures were kept under 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The school worked to ensure that outer doors were closed when heating or cooling the building, and that unoccupied spaces were not heated.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Green Team students made daily announcements about energy conservation, recycling, reducing waste, and composting.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation facts and tips were shared during morning announcements on a monthly basis.
- Water conservation signs were posted and updated in restrooms, classrooms, and kitchens.
- In February 2019, during an all-school assembly, Green Team students shared ways to conserve water at school and home.
- Students and teachers maintained the newly-planted reading garden. Drought resistant, native plants were planted in the garden.
- Students conducted an audit of the school's faucets and reported drips and other issues to the custodian. Students also measured faucet flow rates and, to reduce water use, Mr. Curt installed aerators on all faucets.