Green Schools Goal

- Build a community (including staff, custodians, students, and parents) that fully supports, understands and encourages waste reduction/recycling and conservation.

Diagram:
- RETHINK
- REDUCE
- REUSE
- COMPOST
- RECYCLE
- LANDFILL
Did you know…

Of all the garbage that is thrown away, approximately what % is considered a resource (a material that has value and should not be disposed)?

- a. 25%
- b. 49%
- c. 80%
Recycling Session Outline

- What can be recycled? How do I know what can be recycled?
- Common Obstacles—and steps to success
- Green Schools Teams—how to build a team and keep them motivated, how to recover from turnover
- How to create a program that lasts
- Group discussion
Stand up if....

- Paper with crayon
- Yogurt container
- Starbucks paper cup
- Plastic fork
- Shredded paper
- Paper with staples
- Paper towels
- Granola bar wrapper
- Coated or glossy fax paper
How do I know what can be recycled?

- Check with your hauler
- Ask your Green Schools Program representative
Why does it differ?

- Between home and school
- City contracts
- Different haulers
General Rule of Thumb

- Cardboard
- Mixed paper
- Plastic bottles (no caps)
- Aluminum cans
- Glass bottles
Challenge: Our indoor recycling containers are not emptied regularly.

- Custodians
- Students and custodians
- Students
Custodial collection

- Custodial collection is the first option.
- Always ask, “What do you need to do your job?” “Is there anything students and staff can do to make your job easier?”
- Different dolly set-ups
Custodians and Students

- Students collect recyclable materials from classrooms and move them to central indoor containers
- Custodian takes central container outside
- Custodian empties office and lunchroom containers
Student Collection

- Consider only in unusual circumstances
- Can take students away from class time
- When students collect, program is harder to sustain through time
Challenge: We don’t recycle in the lunchroom

- The lunchroom is different from the classroom
- Set-up is critical
- Need for monitors and education
- Kick-off!
Challenge: The students will not recycle

- Create a culture of conservation
- Adult leadership
- Educate and promote your program!
- Make sure you have the materials in place
Challenge: We recycle, but aren’t saving any money

- Must reduce the size of the outdoor garbage dumpster or frequency of collection to save money
- Must reduce and reuse as well as recycle
Challenge: We can’t afford materials

- King County’s 80/20 match for containers and dollies
- PTSA and districts for 20% match
- Grants and awards
- Signs are free!
Help! I can’t do this alone!
Creating a Green Team

- Assign Leaders at the beginning of the year
- Use existing clubs
- Consider community service credits or other reward for participation
- Make it fun
Sustaining a Green Team - Keeping them motivated

- Annual Sustainability Fair
- Conservation carnival
- Academic credit given for attending Seattle’s Green festival or other events
- Competitions
- Rewards
Praise your Team!

- Tools provided by King County
  - Certificates
  - Banners
  - Earth Heroes Award
  - Web site success stories
  - Press releases
  - School Board meetings
How King County can support your Green Schools Team

- Recommendations
- Support
- Supplies
- Stickers
- Green Team mini-grant
Educating the Community

- Announce recycling information/statistics in weekly bulletins and at assemblies
- Create a display of what can and can’t be recycled
- Make posters
- Parent newsletters
- School board presentations
Making your program last

- Use Level 1 criteria as an assessment tool at the beginning of each school year
- Have at least two staff members to lead the effort
- On-going promotion and education
- On-going monitoring and evaluation
Monitoring and evaluating your recycling program

- Monitor your efforts
- Is there garbage in the recycling?
- Are outdoor garbage and recycling dumpsters full?
Education

- King County Green Schools Website
- Free King County assembly for elementary students and workshops for both elementary and secondary students
- King County Green Team Program
- Take a tour of recycling or composting facility
Curriculum ideas

- Green Schools website
- Videos
- Activity guides
- Classroom workshops

**BE A Garbage Gumshoe**

**OBJECTIVES**
Students will become aware of what they put into the waste stream and how they can change their habits. Students will be encouraged to improve their recycling habits by conducting a garbage and recyclables audit.

**PROCEDURE**
1. **First Week**
   Students will set up two containers one for garbage and one for recycling. In order to make measuring the contents easy and uniform, students can place paper grocery bags in the garbage and recycling containers. At the end of each day students will estimate the volume (bags are 1/2 full, 1/4 full, 1/8 full, etc.) and/or measure the weight (using a scale) of both recycling and garbage and record the figures on the "Be a Garbage Gumshoe" chart.
   
2. Students will check their containers for "contamination." Record on the chart the total number of items that were incorrectly placed in the recycling, and the total number of items that were incorrectly placed in the garbage.

3. At the end of the week, tally up the total volume and/or weight of recyclables and garbage, and the number of incorrectly placed items for the first week. Ask:
   - How much of each did the students generate?
   - What could be done to decrease the amount of garbage?
   - What could be done to create less waste in the first place by reducing and by reusing?
   - What can be done to decrease the amount of incorrectly placed items?

4. **Second Week**
   Follow the identical process as described in work 1. Tally all results on the second part of the chart.
   - Ask how week 2 compared to week 1. Explain the differences.
   - Discuss again what could be done to reduce and reuse further.

5. Encourage students to conduct waste audits at home. Pass out copies of the "Be a Garbage Gumshoe" chart for them to use at home!

**PRE & POST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**
- How can you and your family change habits to reduce the amount you throw away?
- What types of products should we buy if we want to cut down on waste?
Save our resources..... and make money

✧ Cell Phone
✧ Printer Cartridge
✧ Capri-Sun
✧ Text book recycling program
✧ Electronics
✧ Batteries
Glacier Park Elementary

- Improved collection
- Education/promotion
- Added materials, including food scraps

Results
- Increased recycling rate from 9% to 54%
- Reduced garbage disposal costs by $7,000
Skyview Junior High

- Added materials
- Improved collection
- Education/Promotion

Results
- Increased recycling rate from 10% to 50%
- $1000/year estimated savings
- New culture of conservation at all levels
The Overlake School

- Raised nearly $100,000 for “Go Green” effort
- Created culture of conservation including curriculum integration and outreach
District participation

- Issaquah School District won King County Green Globe ‘Leader in Green Schools’ Award
- Bellevue School District made participation mandatory
What do you do?

- Obstacles and solutions