Carnation Elementary School

School District: Riverview

School Location: Carnation

Began participating in the 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 2011

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2012


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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Carnation Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 56 percent.
- Recycling containers were added to each classroom for paper, milk cartons, bottles and aluminum cans.
- School staff placed recycling stickers that list what can and can’t be recycled on all recycling containers.
- The Green Team created and showed the entire school a video to promote recycling and waste reduction.
Carnation’s third-grade Green Team helped eliminate unwanted newspaper subscriptions and mail, created paper reuse trays for each classroom, and educated their schoolmates about waste reduction and recycling.

- Students created and hung 3-dimensional posters that included examples of recyclable materials.
- Students participated in recycling presentations around the community.
- Materials were reused for art projects in several classrooms.
- The school hosted the King County school assembly program about waste reduction and recycling.
- The Green Team reminded students and staff of proper waste sorting practices by displaying creative signage, making PA announcements, placing monitors at waste stations, and planning schoolwide assemblies.
- In winter 2018, Carnation was awarded a grant for installation of water bottle filling stations to reduce waste from disposable plastic bottles. A second grant was awarded for aluminum water bottles distributed at the school walkathon.
- Students created a “Carnation Elementary Tiger Pledge” based on the 4Rs – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and on conservation of electricity and water.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2014-15, the school placed "turn off lights when leaving room" and “turn off equipment when not in use” signs throughout the school, including classrooms.
- Students presented energy conservation information to the school board.
- The Green Team created and presented skits to educate students and staff members about energy conservation. The skits along with frequent “Energy Commercials” were presented throughout the school year during lunches.
- Students worked with Oxbow Farm to study and analyze how the school’s energy conservation practices impacted salmon in the Snoqualmie River. Students helped interpret for Spanish speaking families during the project.
In each classroom, students took turns being "Technology Engineers" to check areas of the school for energy conservation practices.

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

- To educate students and staff about water conservation and pollution prevention, students led skits and made announcements during lunch.
- Students studied the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed and developed skits, posters, and bulletin board displays about protecting the local watershed.
- Students annually partnered with the Snoqualmie Tribe and other local watershed organizations to study the health of the Snoqualmie River and promote conservation in Tolt River watershed.
- Third-grade students learned about water sources in different parts of the world.
- Teachers were asked to conserve water in their classrooms. Reminders about water conservation were posted near all sinks.
- Students worked with Nature Vision to test the Snoqualmie River for temperature, PH levels, and oxygen. Students looked for water insects that indicate river health. Photos about the project were displayed on a bulletin board.
- Head custodian Rick Harstad checked regularly for water leaks.
- Brooms or rakes were used to clean school grounds instead of pressure washing or hosing down sidewalks and concrete areas.
- When old fixtures and equipment needed to be replaced, low-flow and water efficient models were purchased.
- Drought-tolerant plants and shrubs were planted on school grounds.
- During 2017-18, the school installed a rain garden to help prevent water pollution. Educational signs in the garden taught students about native and drought resistant plants.

**Sustaining Green School recognition**

- Carnation Elementary School sustained and built 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 2014-15**

- The school held a warm clothing drive to show students how items can be reused for a good cause. Boxes of used clothing were collected from classrooms and students graphed how many items were collected each day. Students collected over 700 items in three days.

**Sustaining Green School 2015-16**

- At the beginning of the year, every student participated in a workshop about the importance of water conservation.
- The importance of clean and healthy water both locally and globally was included in curriculum.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing organized education units on organic farming, salmon, and a Passport to Sustainability project on state standards for sustainability.
- Students created posters about healthy rivers based on evidence the students collected at local rivers. The posters emphasized the importance of healthy riparian zones for migrating salmon and were shared at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) night which was attended by the entire school community.
- Intermediate grades enhanced their science curriculum by studying the local watershed through field excursions where students walked to local rivers and creeks and recorded healthy and non-healthy riparian zones.

**Sustaining Green School 2016-17**

- Messages encouraging water conservation at home, at school, and in the community were shared with parents and students via the school's teaching blog in conjunction with this year's Sustaining Green School project.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe teamed with students from Carnation Elementary to plant trees along the Snoqualmie River by Fall City Park.
The Green Team initiated a Community Rain Garden campaign which culminated in a Rain Garden/Water Pollution Prevention booth at STEM Night in April 2017. The campaign was promoted through school announcements, parent newsletters, teaching blogs, and student-made posters. The Green Team partnered with Snoqualmie Stewards who provided the community with educational and practical resources to plant rain gardens at their homes, schools, and local businesses.

Green Team members created signs to promote water conservation at drinking fountains.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

Since the school does not have access to collection services for compostable materials, the Green Team collaborated with community partners to find creative alternatives to reduce food waste. During fall 2017, the school began collecting leftover food scraps for donation to a pig farm. To prepare students and staff for food scrap collection, Green Team students encouraged proper food waste sorting in theatrical assemblies, by monitoring waste stations, and on bulletin board displays.

Awards

- Carnation Elementary School received the U.S. Green Ribbon School award in spring 2018.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing received King County Earth Heroes at School awards in 2011 and 2016.

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

Elizabeth Wing, teacher
wingel@riverview.wednet.edu