Endeavour Elementary School

School District: Issaquah
School Location: Issaquah
Began Participating in the Green Schools Program: May 2009
Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in March 2010
Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in January 2014
Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2014
Sustaining Green School recognition: Achieved for
- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19

In spring 2015, Endeavour was the first school to be recognized as a King County Sustaining Green School.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)
- Endeavour Elementary maintained an estimated 40 percent recycling rate.
- Each student in Ms. Ralph’s classroom adopted another class and visited that class regularly to share reuse and recycling information and to monitor classroom efforts.
- The school collected compostable materials in its lunchroom.
- Student Waste Watchers monitored lunchroom containers to ensure proper sorting of recyclable and compostable materials.
- Endeavour participated in the district-wide waste free lunch challenge to promote reusable and recyclable containers for lunches brought from home.
- Issaquah School District provided recycling bins next to garbage bins at school entrances to increase recycling from families and visitors.
- The school reduced paper use through electronic newsletters and fliers.
Classrooms and the copy room used GOOS (Good on One Side) paper reuse bins.

Many teachers chose to collect compostable materials in their classrooms.

Along with all schools in the district, Endeavour Elementary School eliminated the use of straws during lunch.

The school took part in a King County waste reduction and recycling assembly and the third-grade classes received follow-up King County classroom workshops.

Fifth-grade students made weekly announcements about Green School conservation practices.

Custodians reintroduced leftover liquid buckets and strainers to the cafeteria waste stations.

**Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- Energy conservation labels were posted on light switches and computers to remind school employees and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Monthly energy conservation reminders were sent to school employees.
- Classroom blinds were closed and technological devices were turned off each night to conserve energy.
- The school’s vending machine lights were permanently turned off.
- In its electronic newsletter, the school shared information with families about the school’s energy use and conservation practices.
- The Green Team monitored school energy and water use quarterly and displayed charts in the school office showing the district’s energy and water use.
- Energy conservation was promoted through Earth Week activities and reminders.
- Teachers were asked to elect a Light Watcher, a student classroom job to ensure all lights were turned off in empty rooms.

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

- Students created water conservation signs that were placed near drinking fountains.
- To reduce waste and conserve water, students watched a video on how to use less soap and water, as well as only one paper towel when drying their hands.
School employees were encouraged to submit work orders to report water leaks to maintenance workers.

- Cascade Water Alliance installed a rainwater roof collection cistern and a solar panel to drive the pump and drip irrigation for each of the school’s six garden beds.
- Students maintained a worm bin and used the compost as mulch for garden beds.
- The school created an outdoor classroom in its on-site wetlands area. Classrooms used the garden for learning opportunities and volunteers assisted with upkeep. The area included benches, trails, interpretive signs, and a viewing platform. Night motion detector cameras were set up four times per year to allow students to view wildlife in the wetlands. Teachers created contaminant identification keys that students used to test the water quality in the on-site wetlands.
- To filter storm water drainage in the school’s bio-swale, the school planted native plants. Drought-tolerant plants and high quality soils helped conserve water in the school garden.
- The school conserved water by installing low-flow faucets and toilets as well as automatic shut-off faucets.

**Sustaining Green School recognition**

- The school earned this recognition by sustaining and building on its Level One through Level Three practices. How the school achieved this each year is described below.
- In spring 2015, Endeavour was the first school to be recognized as a King County Sustaining Green School.

**Sustaining Green School 2014-15**

- In fall 2014, classrooms were offered countertop compost bins to collect their used paper towels, and 26 classrooms opted to participate in this voluntary effort.
- Student Waste Watchers emptied classroom paper towel bins once each week into a larger container for the custodian to empty into the outdoor organics collection container which was transported to Cedar Grove Composting facility.
Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- First-grade student Waste Watchers monitored lunchroom recycling stations and helped students place their items in the correct location.
- The school increased the frequency of waste-free Wednesday lunches from once each month to weekly. On Wednesdays, the Green Team used reminders and tips to encourage students to use durable and recyclable containers.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school implemented new Earth Week activities to promote conservation.
- The school held a challenge for students to decorate classroom GOOS (Good on One Side) bins, which encourage students to reuse paper in the classroom.
- Endeavour’s Green Team passed out fliers with tips about how to be green.
- Each Wednesday, the school played an environmentally themed movie during lunch.
- Waste Watchers monitored waste stations during every lunch and made announcements about waste reduction and recycling practices.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school replaced all disposable utensils in the cafeteria with reusable durable utensils.
- With district support, the school kitchen began a weekly School Food Share Program in collaboration with Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. Unopened, packaged items from the school lunch program were picked up by Issaquah Food Bank each week instead of being disposed.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The school participated in the district waste-free lunch competition.
- Green Team members shared what they learned in King County classroom workshops with other students.
- To promote water and energy conservation, the Green Team continued to share tips on energy and water conservation every month.