Enumclaw Middle School

School District: Enumclaw
School Location: Enumclaw

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: August 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2014

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2015

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: 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)

- Enumclaw Middle School maintained a recycling rate of 54 percent.
- During the beginning of the year assembly, the school’s waste reduction and recycling goals were presented to students and staff members. Students were asked to wear green to the assembly to show support for the school’s goals.
- The King County Green Schools Program provided color-coded lunchroom and classroom recycling containers and recycling signs for recycling bins.
- In 2013, the school began collecting recyclable and compostable materials in its lunchroom.
- The school piloted a lunchroom share table for unopened, unwanted food items from the school lunch program. The leftover food was donated to a local food bank.
• The Green Team was trained by a King County representative on how to monitor lunchroom recycling stations and on strategies for reducing food waste.
• Green Team members volunteered to monitor lunchroom recycling stations. In addition to assisting students with waste sorting, they emptied leftover milk before placing milk cartons in the recycling bins.
• Waste reduction and recycling tips and successes were regularly shared during announcements, school assemblies, and in the school’s electronic newsletter.
• Custodians periodically shared the school’s recycling status and improvements with other staff members.
• The school reduced waste by eliminating straws and serving condiments in bulk dispensers in the lunchroom.
• Green Team members created posters about recycling and composting.
• The school used smart boards to limit the use of paper handouts.
• Students created a training video on lunchroom cleanup procedures for incoming Green Team students.
• Art classes used recyclable and compostable materials, such as pizza boxes from the lunch room, as canvases. Toilet paper rolls, paper cups, newspaper, wire hangers, and nylons were used to make sculptures.
• Students visited Sunrise Elementary to share Enumclaw Middle School’s conservation successes and inspire Sunrise students to do the same.
• In January 2016, eighth-grade students received Google Chrome books. Teachers provided information through Google Docs instead of printed handouts and revised essays online instead of students printing multiple copies.
• All leadership classes received King County’s Food For Thought workshop in 2017.
• To reduce food waste, the school sent bags of unopened, packaged leftover foods home with students who could use it over the weekend.
• To reduce use of single-use plastic bottles, students promoted the school’s hydration stations which make it easy to refill durable water bottles.

Eighth-grade student Sophia Demarco won the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Service Award for Washington State for her environmental education and outreach efforts including sharing what she’s learned in classrooms and a local senior center, and volunteering at a local food bank.
Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team used weekly video announcements to share the school-wide energy conservation pledge and provide energy conservation tips and facts.
- “Turn off the lights” stickers were posted by every light switch.
- Lights were sensors were installed to automatically shut off after five minutes without motion.
- During staff meetings, the Green Team advisor reminded staff to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather to avoid adjusting thermostats.
- The school closed classroom blinds at the end of the school day to conserve heat and opened them during the school day to make use of daylight.
- Vending machines were EnergyStar certified.
- In 2015-16, the school created an Instagram account through which students were given energy conservation reminders such as dressing for the weather and unplugging chargers when not in use. Over 200 students followed the account within the first year.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- The school district added new sprinklers that used less water to the football field. The field was irrigated using a timer so that water was only used at night.
- Staff reported any water leaks to the custodians to be repaired.
- Leadership students:
  - Toured the local wastewater treatment facility and shared what they learned with the school.
  - Created and maintained a school garden using drought-tolerant plants;
  - Incorporated water conservation tips into presentations to Sunrise Elementary School students in March 2016.
  - Shared water conservation information on video announcements and the school Instagram account.
  - Posted water conservation signs by school faucets.
- The Future Farmers of America at Enumclaw High visited Enumclaw Middle School leadership students monthly to teach them about water use practices in agriculture.
Leadership teacher Karl Karkainen attended King County’s Hazards on the Homefront teacher training on household hazardous waste and safer choices. Mr. Karkainen then taught his leadership class multiple lessons on this topic and the class received a King County Hazards on the Homefront presentation. The students presented what they learned in various school video announcements.

Sustaining Green School recognition

- Enumclaw Middle 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 2016-17

- New energy-efficient lighting was installed in the gym.
- A native plant garden was maintained by students.
- Recycling bins were added to the hallways, and leadership students emptied them twice per week.
- The upperclassmen from the Enumclaw High School agriculture program taught lessons once per month on various topics related to the environment (overuse of land, scarcity of water and prioritizing its use, etc.)

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school offered a new environmental science class to students.
- Students presented in classrooms and at the local senior center about environmental topics and sustainability tips.
- The Green Team began tracking paper use on the main copy machine.

Awards

- Enumclaw Middle School Leadership Program received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2014 for its successful lunchroom recycling program.
- Teacher Karl Karkainen received the 2015-16 Washington State Middle Level Leadership Advisor of the Year Award from the Association of Washington Student Leaders.
- Eighth-grade student Sophia Demarco won the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Service Award for Washington State for environmental education and outreach efforts.
For more information about the school’s conservation achievements and participation in the Green Schools Program, contact:

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