



## **Gibson Ek High School**

**School District:** Issaquah

**School Location:** Issaquah

**Began participating in Green Schools Program:** October 2017

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2019

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in January 2020

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Gibson Ek High maintained a 40 percent recycling rate.
- Environmental leadership students formed a Green Team which created signs and made announcements about the Green Schools Program and Green Team actions.
- Students met with custodians about waste sorting systems, researched strategies for reducing waste, and designed signs with messages about waste reduction for the school commons. Students also created a display about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- As part of an Innovate for Change event, five groups of students chose to address waste reduction challenges suggested by King County. Solutions included a school-wide recycled art competition, composting kits for elementary schools, an aquaponic display to demonstrate the value of reusing waste, and a paper-free campus. The winning team designed and displayed new clothing from previously discarded items.
- During an Earth Week assembly, the Green Team partnered with school's We Club to promote conservation through a quiz and a video. The team also hosted a fundraiser for clean water.
- To reduce paper use, students and teachers used Google Classroom and emails for assignments and other communication.
- The school conducted an inventory of the chemicals and chemical products used at school.



- The school promoted waste-free lunches.
- From April to June 2019, the school piloted a cafeteria share table for unopened, unwanted food items and then donated leftover items to Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank.
- In 2019-20, to expand its waste reduction practices, the school began to regularly donate unopened, packaged items to the local food bank, and students volunteered twice each week at the food bank. Students also conducted a campaign to reduce single-use bottles at school and to-go containers at nearby restaurants.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- During Earth Month 2019, one week was dedicated to energy conservation messages.
- Students learned about the impacts of shifts in energy sources in a Green New Deal course led by a staff member.
- Students completed research papers on climate change and put together an art show with pieces about climate change.
- Signs were posted in classrooms and on electronic equipment to remind students and staff to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces and electronic equipment when not in use.
- Computers were programmed to shut down at 6:30 p.m. each day.
- The district's contract with a soft drink company specified vending machine display lights to be turned off permanently.
- Temperatures in each building were standardized by the district, and in January 2020 the district sent an e-newsletter to remind schools about conserving energy.