Ilalko Elementary School

School District: Auburn
School Location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2014

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18: Achieved in May 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ilalko Elementary School maintained a recycling rate of 62 percent.
- The Green Team educated the school population about recycling and waste reduction by posting signs and performing two plays.
- Kitchen staff began collecting compostable materials and switched from disposable to durable utensils in the lunchroom.
- The school decreased its garbage collection service thanks to increased collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- In 2016, Green Team members created and distributed paper reuse boxes to each classroom.
• Administration changed the settings on the copy machine and printers to avoid printing a cover page.
• Teacher Shannon Hyde and paraprofessional Michaela Peringer visited each class to educate students on the school’s waste reduction and recycling practices.
• The Green Team collected used holiday lights and other recyclable materials which were sent to TerraCycle, a company that used the materials to make new products.
• To reduce food waste, the school designated a share area next to every recycling station for unopened packaged foods from the school lunch program.
• Ilalko conducted a waste-free Wednesday campaign to reduce lunchroom waste.
• The school began a campaign to reduce cafeteria milk waste.
• Green Team students monitored recycling stations for second- through fifth- grade students, and Ms. Peringer monitored recycling stations in the kindergarten and first grade hallway.
• Representatives from King County were invited to educate students and staff members at a waste reduction and recycling assembly.
• Students took a field trip to a transfer station to learn where waste is taken once it is collected.
• Ilalko held an Environment Day where classes alternated between a variety of stations to learn about different waste reduction and recycling practices.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

• Signs were posted in all classrooms and common areas to remind students and staff to turn off lights and equipment when not in use. The Green Team patrolled weekly to ensure lights and equipment were turned off.
• A Green Team sub-group conducted an energy survey of all classrooms to determine current practices and set conservation goals for the school year.
Shannon Hyde and principal Tim Carstens regularly communicated with students and staff members via assemblies and emails to remind them to conserve energy.

- All incandescent bulbs were replaced with LED lights.
- In an effort to reduce heating and cooling energy use, the Green Team created a quarterly checklist to survey classroom temperature and use.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust the thermostat.

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

- The school set up a bulletin board pledge wall where each student was able to choose at least one action to decrease pollution and/or waste less water.
- Ilalko held a Keep Storm Water Clean field trip where students cleaned up Cedar Lanes Park to protect White River and learned about how to protect storm water.
- The Green Team participated in We Day and the Local Watershed cleanup.

**Sustaining Green School 2017-2018**

- Ilalko 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.
- The Green Team completed a variety of waste reduction projects including a neighborhood cleanup and improving the waste-free Wednesday program.
- The school began collecting food scraps to be composted at a regional composting facility.

**Award**

- The Green Team received a 2015 King County Earth Heroes at School Award for establishing the waste reduction and recycling program at the school.

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

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