



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 recognition: Achieved in

- 2017-18
- 2018-19

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Ilalko Elementary School achieved a 63 percent recycling rate.
- The Green Team educated the school population about recycling and waste reduction by posting signs and performing two plays.
- Kitchen staff collected 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.



Waste brigade recycling monitors



Schedule for Green Team lunch monitors



Holiday lights collection team



Green Team students helping other students sort recyclable materials

- 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 educated students and staff members about waste reduction and recycling at an all-school 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, recycling, and other conservation practices.



Green Team students participate in Auburn Clean Sweep.



Green Team students participate in Auburn Clean Sweep.

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.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- 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 recognition

Ilalko Elementary 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 is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- 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.



Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- To increase awareness of what items can be recycled, the school started a Weekly Recycle Bin Competition where items placed in classroom recycling bins were surveyed each week. Survey results were shared with the school.
- Green Team students implemented a Waste Free Month competition and continued to promote the Waste-Free Wednesday program.
- Used ink cartridges and used markers were collected to be upcycled.
- Ilako Elementary collected and donated lightly used jeans to homeless community members.
- To promote reuse, students made jump ropes with plastic bags, ornaments with paper rolls, and wind spiral mobiles with plastic bottles.
- On Earth Day, students created crafts and made commitments to protect the earth.
- Ilako Elementary participated in the Santa Parade in Auburn to promote students taking action to make the world a better place.
- Green Team students picked up trash and planted flowers on school campus.

Award

- The Green Team received a 2015 King County Earth Heroes at School Award for establishing a waste reduction and recycling program at the school.
- In 2016, Ilako Elementary received the Washington OSPI Green School Leader Pillar 1 award for reducing environmental impacts and costs.