



International Community School

School District: Lake Washington

School Location: Kirkland

Began participating in Green Schools Program: September 2015

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- International Community School achieved a 61 percent recycling rate.
- International Community School educated incoming students during orientation about how to properly sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- The school made PA and video announcements to promote waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The Green Team worked closely with custodial staff, conducted waste audits, and created an instructional video and signs about proper sorting of waste.
- The Green Team introduced composting collection to the school in April 2015.
- The waste audit prior to compost collection showed that 80 percent by weight of the school's garbage was compostable. Since the program was established, nearly all food waste is diverted to compostable material bins.
- The Green Team led a school-wide assembly about environmental sustainability in which they performed a skit and held a quiz show about recycling and composting.
- The school trained students to monitor recycling and compost bins during lunch, and to teach fellow students how to sort.



Teacher and Green Team students received a King County Earth Heroes at School award, spring 2016.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- International Community School participated in Tupperware Tuesday during Earth Week to reduce the number of compostable plates being used. Students were encouraged to bring their lunches in durable containers.
- At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, the school used announcements to remind students and teachers about how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- In 2018-19, the school signed up with Crayola ColorCycle program to collect used markers to be shipped to Crayola for recycling. The Green Team labeled and distributed marker recycling boxes to all teachers and instructed them on how to collect used markers.
- All classrooms set up a reusable paper box to encourage students and teachers to use the back side of the paper.
- Reusable water bottles were sold throughout the 2018-19 school year to encourage students to refill their water bottles.
- In March 2019, Green Team members retaught all sixth-grade students about how to correctly sort garbage and recyclable and compostable materials.
- In spring 2019 during Green Week, the week after Earth Day, the Green Team used a video to promote recycling and composting. The school dedicated a day to promote reuse of items and a tote-your-trash day to promote awareness about personal trash.



International Community students planted trees on school grounds

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- ASB officers used regular weekly announcements to share “green facts of the week” including information about energy use and conservation.
- Students designed and worked on climate change solution impact projects as part of the science curriculum.



- Sixth-grade students and the Green Team completed a tree planting service project on the east side of the school to provide shade cover around the classrooms and the afternoon student pick-up lines.
- In 2018-19, the custodians participated in a staff member energy conservation pledge and made sure all lights were turned off in classrooms and workspaces at the end of each day.
- Signs were posted in workrooms to encourage students and staff members to turn off lights when not in use.
- In both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, International Community School engaged students in a classroom Energy Conservation Pledge.
- To conserve energy, Green Team students encouraged staff members to comply with the district's "no personal appliances" policy.
- Students and staff members were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season, and the thermostats were set at or below 68 degrees.

Other Conservation Practices

- In 2018-19, a group of students created [BEEducated](#), an educational resource to help save the rapidly declining bee population. The students started a sustainable pollinator garden in a local Sammamish park, compiled a resource kit to help other schools plant pollinator gardens, and assisted schools in their own district and Renton School District to establish pollinator gardens. The group also collaborated with MIT developers on an app dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of bees.