Issaquah High School

**School District:** Issaquah  
**School Location:** Issaquah

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
September 2010

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2011

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2014

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2015

**Sustaining Green School 2015-16:** 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)**

- Issaquah High School increased its recycling rate from 58 percent to 72 percent. When it joined the King County Green Schools Program, the school had a recycling rate of 16 percent, and increased its rate by initiating a school-wide program that included collection of recyclable materials in classrooms, offices, hallways and lunchroom as well as the collection of compostable materials in the lunchroom.
- Recycling increases resulted in doubling outdoor recycling dumpster pick-ups and decreasing garbage pick-ups.
- Associated Student Body (ASB) and Leadership class members distributed recycling stickers that listed what can and can’t be recycled to all classrooms.
- Students shared facts about recycling and the environmental impact of waste through morning announcements and posters hung throughout the hallways.
- In 2014-15, student and staff leaders partnered with Cedar Grove Composting, Issaquah School District, and King County Green Schools Program to pilot bathroom paper towel composting.

Earth Hero at School Award  
Student Kate Brunette received the King County award in April 2011.
To encourage reduction of paper towel use, student leaders placed paper towel conservation signs on each school paper towel dispenser.

With assistance from City of Issaquah, the school launched a program to collect compostable materials. ASB and Leadership class members monitored each lunchroom recycling station for the first two weeks of the program and educated the student body about what items can be collected for composting.

Students created an educational video about the do’s and don’ts of compost collection. The video was aired on morning announcements. Students also laminated fliers about compostable materials and posted them on every compost bin in the school.

Information about how to sort compostable and recyclable materials was shared during an Earth Day lunch competition.

The school collected printer cartridges for recycling.

Teachers reduced paper use by using online “drop-boxes” for homework.

Students participated in a social media photo contest to spread environmental awareness. Their artwork was displayed around the school.

In 2013-14, students participated in a school-wide lunchtime recycling contest.

In April 2015, Issaquah High School placed first in the district-wide waste-free Wednesday challenge. During the challenge, students generated less than 1 ounce of waste per student.

Student Sustainability Ambassadors hosted the Issaquah School District Green Team Summit in October 2014 and an Issaquah Community Sustainability Summit in April 2015.

A hydration station was installed to encourage use of reusable water bottles and reduce disposable water bottle use.

Recycling containers and color coded signs were placed next to all garbage cans to encourage recycling and make it easier.

In 2014-15, ASB students picked up litter after school sporting events.

The leadership class used reusable items for decorating the Winterfest celebration and hired a company to set up elaborate lighting for school dances instead of using excessive paper decorations.
Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Students created a classroom conservation pledge to encourage students and staff to turn off lights and shut down computers when they are not in use, and to close blinds at the end of every day, while opening them during classes to make use of natural light.
- Energy conservation signs were posted on light switches and electronics to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjusting the thermostat settings.
- Monthly emails regarding the school’s energy use and energy conservation tips were sent to the school community.
- In 2013-14, students participated in a Clear the Lot campaign that rewarded students for walking, biking or carpooling to school.
- Assistant principal Adam Desautels worked with Chris Bruno to install LED lighting where possible.
- Lighting was set to turn off in unused school spaces.
- Using district-wide software, non-administrator computers were shut down automatically each evening to conserve energy.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- AP Environmental Science students learned about water conservation and climate change, where the school’s drinking water goes after entering the drain, water availability and cleanliness, and waterborne illnesses.
- The school added a greenhouse in the school garden.
- AP Biology students learned about the human impacts on climate change and the consequences of water use.
- Marine Biology students learned about the effects of climate change on water quality.
- Biology classes filled vials with water from a natural body of water and tested turbidity, pH levels, and pollution.
Global Studies classes learned about human interaction with water and water quality in different parts of the world.

Rain gardens were planted in the parking lot of the new building to reduce runoff from heavy rains or storm water. This allowed surface water to filter through the plants before entering the drainage system via the concrete.

The Green Team posted notices about water conservation in all bathroom stalls to educate students on ways to conserve water.

Faucets were set to automatically shut off when not in use.

Custodians cleaned school floors with floor cleaning machines that used up to 50 percent less water than mopping.

The school conducted a carpool survey, promoted a “Carpool to School” day, and gave reminders to carpool in school video announcements.

Students and staff were reminded of the school’s dual-flush low-flow toilets and how to properly use them to reduce water use.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Issaquah High 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 2015-16

Staff members and students promoted practices to reduce paper use. The student Green Team gave a 30-minute presentation at a school staff meeting on Issaquah High’s paper use compared to other Issaquah schools, how the school ran out of paper in 2014-15 before it was time to order more, and what staff members can do to reduce paper use.

As of February 2016, the school had not run out of paper. Results of the school’s paper reduction campaign were shared in announcements and at additional staff meetings.
Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Green Team students collected school commuter information and promoted carpooling to students and families through school newsletters.
- Students tracked data on parked cars and SOV drop-offs.
- The school posted anti-idle parking lot signs in fall 2016 and the entire district installed signs in spring 2017.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Students helped to pick up litter, remove invasive species around Lake Sammamish State Park, and plant trees behind the YMCA in Sammamish as part of community service projects sponsored by the National Honor Society.
- In May 2018, the school promoted Bike to School month and held a school beautification day.

Award

- Student Kate Brunette received the King County Earth Heroes at School award in spring 2011 for her efforts leading Issaquah High’s recycling and composting programs.

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

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