Lakeland Hills Elementary School

School District: Auburn

School Location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: May 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in January 2014

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in January 2014

Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2014

Sustaining Green School recognition: Achieved for
  • 2014-15
  • 2016-17
  • 2017-18
  • 2018-19

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)
  • Lakeland Hills Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 74 percent.
  • The school decreased its garbage collection service as a result of increased recycling. When the school’s population increased by 200 students, it was still able to maintain the same decreased level of garbage collection service.
  • In 2013, the school began collecting compostable materials in its lunchroom and staff lounge.
  • The school started a waste-free Wednesday campaign to reduce lunchroom waste.
  • Green Team members served as waste detectives, checking classroom recycling bins and then educating the school about how to correctly sort materials.
• The school received King County’s waste reduction and recycling assembly to help educate and inspire students and staff members.
• Green Team students and staff promoted waste reduction and recycling efforts through educational posters, bulletin boards, and commercials that aired during morning announcements.
• To reduce paper use, staff members were encouraged to limit paper handouts and to print double-sided copies.
• Green Team members developed a system to reuse copy paper, resulting in a savings of three reams of paper per month.
• The Green Team created and shared a presentation with administrators and staff about current projects, successes, and ideas on how to continue to reduce waste at school.
• The school shared information about its waste reduction and recycling practices with its families at PTA meetings, local community gardening meetings, and through the school’s Green Team section of the electronic newsletter.

**Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

• Lakeland Hills decreased its energy use by 11 percent as a result of conservation efforts.
• Energy conservation labels were posted on light switches and computers to remind staff and students to turn them off when not in use.
• In each classroom, students were assigned the job of ensuring that computers were shut down at the end of the day.
• Staff members were encouraged to keep windows and doors shut and to turn off lights when leaving rooms.
• The student Green Club created a pledge to encourage energy conservation.
• The school and district increased energy savings by rewiring hallway emergency lighting fixtures so the lights could only be used during school hours.
• Maintenance staff purchased Energy Star equipment.
Thermostat systems were installed and programmed to meet district standards.

The school communicated its energy conservation efforts through regular monthly announcements.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- In 2013-14, the school decreased monthly per student water consumption from 7.59 CCFs to 7.17 CCFs.
- Low-flow toilets, faucet aerators, and Energy Star dishwashers helped the school to reduce water use. Water faucet sensors were installed to keep water turned off while students and staff soaped their hands.
- A water saving irrigation system was used in the school garden.
- Regular monthly announcements were used to share water conservation and pollution prevention tips.
- Custodial staff routinely checked for leaky faucets and reported problems for maintenance. Kitchen staff reduced water use by only running full loads of dishes.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Lakeland Hills Elementary School sustained and built 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 2014-15

- In March 2015, the school participated in a scheduled Earth Hour in which families turned off nonessential lights and discussed environmental actions. Daily announcements promoted Earth Hour, an Earth Hour video was shown in all classrooms, and an email encouraging participation in Earth Hour was sent to parents. Afterward, students and staff shared what they did during Earth Hour and teachers led students in discussions about sustainability.
Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- After observing high levels of contamination at the beginning of the year, the school reminded students and staff how to properly sort waste items.
- The school held a fall Earth Challenge Assembly and shared monthly announcements to teach students of waste reduction and recycling practices.
- The Green Team posted signs around the school to remind students to conserve energy and save water.
- Scott Weide, district resource conservation manager, led the Green Team through a waste analysis to determine areas for improvement.
- The kitchen conducted an analysis to determine the quantity of durable utensils that had to be replaced due to students mistakenly placing utensils in recycling, food scrap, or garbage bins. To encourage students to keep utensils out of those bins, students launched a Save Me from the Landfill campaign, and shared their findings with the PTA.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school completed a project on how storm water drains are connected to local water sources. Around the community, students relabeled storm drains "Drains to Puget Sound" to help people visualize connections between surface water and how ocean pollution is caused by chemicals and oil that make their way to storm drains and eventually to the ocean.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Lessons about endangered animals and how the consumption of resources affects the habitats they reside in were incorporated into classroom curriculums.
- In 2018, Green Team members presented school conservation successes, ideas, and goals to the school board.
- The Green Team participated in a training about endangered animals, their habitats, and what makes a habitat healthy. Students created posters about endangered animals, listing actions humans can take to protect endangered animals.
Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Green Team students promoted a no-idling campaign and shared information about the negative impacts of vehicle idling with the school community. The campaign was presented in Olympia at a STEM alliance meeting and reported by KOMO news.
- Permanent “no-idle zone” signs were installed in the pick-up area to encourage parents to turn off their engines while waiting to pick-up students.
- Green Team students made posters to encourage students to practice the 4R’s - Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, and maintained waste station signs.
- Green Team students helped other students sort correctly at school meals.
- Third-grade students participated in workshops provided by City of Auburn. In a Waste Reduction and Recycling workshop, they learned where garbage goes, why it is important to reduce waste, and how they can help by packing a waste-free lunch, and correctly sorting their recyclable and compostable materials). In a Stormwater Investigators workshop, they learned about common sources of stormwater pollution and how they can help keep local watersheds and the Puget Sound healthy.
- Green Team students researched the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and then pledged to choose reusable items after creating a display of reusable alternatives to common disposable plastics such as plastic grocery bags, sandwich bags, utensils, water bottles, and straws.
- The students created art pieces depicting the ocean made from disposable plastic packaging, and old t-shirts were used to make reusable bags.

Award

The Green Team received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in 2014 for their leadership and for being spokespersons for district conservation initiatives.