



Maple Hills Elementary School

School District: Issaquah

School Location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
October 2013

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

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

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



Green Team members

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school first achieved a recycling rate of 47 percent and then increased its recycling rate to 54 percent in 2018-19.
- Maple Hills Elementary participated in a King County waste reduction and recycling assembly in 2014.
- Students monitored lunchroom recycling and garbage collection containers to ensure proper recycling and waste disposal.
- The 18 third-grade students selected to participate in the Green Team collected recyclable materials daily from the library and each classroom and office.
- Green Team leaders placed G.O.O.S (Good on One Side) boxes in each classroom and work room to collect paper used only on one side for later use, allowing students and staff to reduce waste by using paper more efficiently.
- The school reduced paper use by sending electronic newsletters to parents and community members.
- Ink cartridges were collected and taken to a recycling location.
- Student leaders led a recycling awareness event on Earth Day 2016.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Green Team members planned and led campus beautification events in spring 2014, fall 2015, and spring 2016. Students planted flowers and vegetables and picked up trash on campus and around Maple Hills Elementary.
- In 2018-19, Maple Hills started to collect compostable materials in its cafeteria for transport to a regional composting facility. Student monitors received training to monitor the recycling station.
- The Green Team:
 - Audited recyclable items that tend to end up in the garbage and made posters to increase awareness about what materials can be recycled.
 - Created multiple upcycled art pieces using recyclable materials.
 - Educated students about plastics in the ocean and encouraged students to bring durable water bottles to school instead of using single-use plastic bottles.
- Recycling bins were labeled and paired with garbage bins.
- Waste-Free Wednesdays were promoted regularly.



Upcycled art made with old CDs/DVDs, plastic bottles, and bottle caps



Using plastic bags, student Green Team members created an art piece called Wave of Responsibility.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Energy conservation facts and trivia were shared during student lunches and at Green Team events.
- The Green Team:
 - Shared with students and staff members the importance of turning out lights when exiting a room.
 - Placed stickers in the computer lab and near classroom computers reminding staff and students to turn off electronics when not in use.



- Created posters about how to conserve energy, and created a checklist that included shutting electronic items down over each holiday break.
- The Issaquah School District's contract with Coca-Cola required vending machine display lights to be permanently turned off.
- An email reminder was sent to teachers prior to each holiday break about preparing classrooms to conserve energy over the breaks.
- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. This was reinforced via morning announcements, teacher newsletters, and student handbook.
- Staff members were reminded to close blinds at night to conserve heat and to open blinds during the day to make use of natural lighting. This was reinforced through email reminders from the dean of students and principal.
- The school set the thermostats to 68 -70 degrees.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- The school installed automatic shut-off faucets.
- The Issaquah Salmon Hatchery staff visited the school and presented to students about watersheds as part of the school's curriculum. Students brainstormed ways they can personally conserve and protect water.
- On Earth Day, the school made announcements to encourage conservation actions.
- Current and past waste, water, and energy information was posted on the Issaquah School District's website.