



Northstar Middle School/Emerson High School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Kirkland

Began participating in Green Schools Program: January 2020

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 43 percent recycling rate.
- A Green Schools Program representative met with the school's student environmental club and staff members for an initial meeting and a walk-through of the facility to help assess current practices.
- Participation in King County Green Schools Program and the school's waste reduction and recycling goals were announced to the school community.
- A student environmental club member collected data on the volume of recyclable materials generated on the school campus. The data included amounts of Ziploc bags and paper towels mistakenly placed in recycling bins. Green Team students shared the data with each classroom and educated students on what can and cannot be placed in recycling bins.
- Teachers Lua Carlson and Dan Weiss included information about climate change in their lessons and taught students how waste contributes to global warming.
- Weiss used the pesticide-free school garden as a teaching tool in his science classes.
- During Earth Month 2020, Carlson's homeroom presented about climate change and how students can reduce carbon emissions by wasting less and reusing more.
- Students designed "Green Cities" in which they envisioned 100 percent sustainable, no-waste cities in the year of 2050. They decided what materials they could use, what they would recycle, and how garbage, recyclables, and compostable materials would be sustainably handled.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The school also used its monthly community newsletter to help educate the school community about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Teachers used OneNote and PowerSchool instead of printing materials.
- Every classroom had a scratch paper folder to collect papers used only on one side. Those papers then were used for scratch pads.
- The school newsletter and newspaper were sent via email.
- Party and graduation decorations and supplies were reused.
- Grass clippings and other compostable materials from the school grounds were composted in the school's on-site composting bins.
- Staff members monitored chemical use on campus, and students learned about the proper use and disposal of two chemicals (bleach/sodium hypochlorite and vinegar/acetic acid) used at the school.