



Opstad Elementary School

School district: Snoqualmie Valley

School location: North Bend

Began participating in Green Schools Program: October 2019

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 39 percent recycling rate in October 2019. A follow-up recycling rate could not be calculated in spring 2020 due to COVID-19 school closures.
- Four teachers, ten third-grade students, and ten fourth-grade students formed a Green Team in December 2019. Students met regularly to initiate and promote conservation practices.
- Classroom recycling bins were emptied by students daily as part of their classroom jobs. All recycling bins were paired with a recycling poster.
- A short video was created for teachers to share with students on what items can be placed in recycling bins. The school provided weekly video updates on waste reduction and recycling practices, and shared success stories and best practices with the school community.
- In Fall 2019, the school used a survey to learn about teachers' interest in supporting conservation efforts. Teachers responded positively to having "Good On Other Side" (GOOS) boxes in their classrooms. Fourth-grade Green Team students made GOOS boxes and distributed them to classrooms.
- Third-grade Green Team students collected used Crayola markers and a parent volunteer sent the makers to Crayola to be recycled.
- To reduce waste in the cafeteria, two students shared videos on using reusable containers for lunches brought from home.
- In Fall 2019, the school formed a work group with a district staff member to explore composting paper towels. The group first assessed employee interest



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

through a questionnaire and learned there was strong support. The group then discussed logistics with teachers, custodians, and other schools in the district.

- A school custodian inventoried the list of toxic chemicals, assembled items that needed to be removed, and properly labeled all potentially hazardous materials.