Shorewood Elementary School

School District: Highline
School Location: Burien

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 2012
Level Three of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in February 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Shorewood Elementary School increased its recycling rate from 57 percent to 66 percent.
- The school recycled fifteen 32-gallon bags of milk cartons each week.
- Labeled recycling bins were placed in all classrooms, work areas, and food areas. Students from each class were in charge of monitoring classroom recycling bins and emptying them at the end of the day. School custodians helped monitor lunchroom recycling bins.
- Student groups periodically collected data on recycling and garbage in the lunchroom and reported their findings to the student body.
- Through posters and video skits, student groups informed the student body about reducing waste and how to recycle.
- Waste free lunches were promoted. Students who eat school lunch were encouraged to take only what they can eat from the salad bar. Parent bulletins included ideas for packing waste-free lunches.
- Straw use was greatly reduced in the lunchroom.
- The staff green team created monthly goals to reduce waste and improve recycling. Goals were communicated to staff and students through emails and announcements.
- Staff received regular updates through email and staff meetings about recycling and other conservation practices. Staff revisited this topic with students throughout the year.
- Office staff sent the majority of parent newsletters by email.
- Teachers shared ideas for how they can use less paper, including increasing margins on documents, making double-sided copies, and condensing homework packets.
- Paper reuse boxes were set up in classrooms and work rooms for scratch paper. Students use this paper for drawing, informal assessments and non-graded assignments.
- Shorewood participated in the King County “Bag your Bags, Bring ‘em Back” plastic bag recycling drive, and received a bench made of recycled plastic...
- Teacher Andrea O’Ferrall and librarian Sarah Gasamis shared tips about waste reduction and recycling in the January and April 2017 staff bulletins.
- Shorewood Elementary scheduled King County’s Going Green Together Assembly in November 2017 to help students learn about waste reduction, recycling, and conservation practices. Teachers scheduled King County classroom workshops that engaged students in conversations about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and protection of animal habitat.

**Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- Shorewood Elementary School decreased electricity use by 22 percent and gas by 25 percent.
- Checklists were provided for all classrooms to remind staff and students what to turn off and close each night. Checklists were posted by the door and included tips such as turning off computers and closing blinds at the end of each day.
- As a result of discussions during staff meetings, less overhead lighting and more natural light was used, and computer monitors were turned off when not in use.
- Through internet research and class discussion, some classrooms learned about ways to reduce energy use.
- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Students monitored the outside doors to make sure they were not left open during or after recess.
- To reduce energy use, the school district set thermostats and hallway lights to turn on an hour before students arrive and turn off when they leave.
- At all staff monthly meetings, staff were reminded of the school's energy conservation practices. Teachers were encouraged to regularly inform students about energy conservation practices, such as turning off the lights when leaving the classroom.
Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation and pollution prevention facts and tips were shared with students via school announcements from April through June 2017.
- Staff were reminded of Shorewood’s water conservation practices on a monthly basis at all staff meetings.
- From April through June 2017, librarian Sarah Gasamis collaborated with fourth grade students to organize a campaign to encourage students to use durable or reusable bottles instead of single-use plastic water bottles. Students shared the “Story of Bottled Water” video in multiple classrooms and made regular school announcements.
- In spring 2017, second grade students learned about water sources in different parts of the world, and connections between climate change and water conservation during the spring of 2017.
- Teachers in the fourth and sixth grade incorporated a drinking water and watershed study into their curriculum during fall of 2017.
- Fifth grade students used Brightwater water quality kits and educational resources in their classroom curriculum during fall of 2017. The students then used the testing kits to test a local body of water for contaminants and created a display about their findings which was exhibited in the fifth grade hallway.
- King County Green Schools Program supplied water conservation signs in 2017 and sixth grade students made signs to promote water conservation.

Comments

“We are very proud of the efforts from students and staff to reduce our garbage and increase our recycling. It has truly been a team effort! We look forward to continuing our work with King County Green Schools to reduce our waste and share our knowledge with our community.” – Erin Spencer, teacher

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

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