



# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## St. Luke School

**School District:** Private

**School Location:** Shoreline

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
March 2012

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2013

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2015

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2016

**Sustaining Green School 2016-17:**  
Achieved in May 2017

**Sustaining Green School 2017-18:**  
Achieved in May 2018

**Sustaining Green School 2018-19:**  
Achieved in May 2019

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- St. Luke School achieved a recycling rate of 68 percent.
- The Girl Scouts at St. Luke School conducted a waste audit with Recology-CleanScapes, the school's garbage and recycling hauler.
- In 2012, with help from King County Green Schools Program, St. Luke School initiated lunchroom collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- In fall 2012, the school received the King County waste reduction and recycling assembly and classroom workshops to help educate students and staff.



Girl Scouts created signs to post above lunchroom bins and helped their peers to sort lunch waste.



Signs remind students to 'hold it low and pour slow' when emptying leftover liquids at lunch.



School garden established in 2015



St. Luke's Learning Garden



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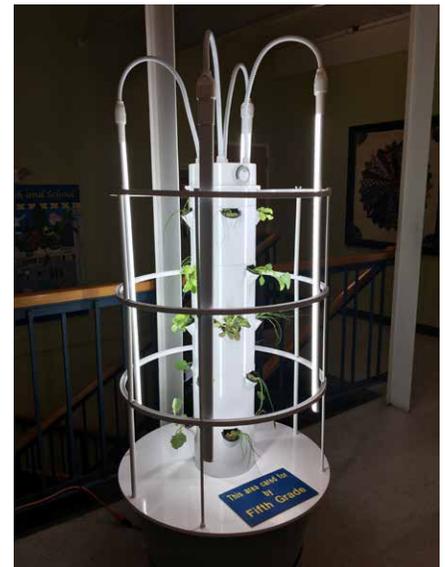
- During 2012-13, St. Luke increased its recycling rate from 26 to 61 percent. The school decreased its garbage dumpster size from 8 to 6 yards and increased its recycling dumpster size from 4 to 8 yards.
- Parents, staff and students made announcements, created posters, and volunteered as lunchroom monitors to educate the school about collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- To reduce waste, St. Luke began a waste-free lunch campaign in 2013. During the first waste-free day, lunchroom waste containers were 80 percent less full than on an average day.
- In 2014-15, the school began collecting compostable materials in its staff room. The compost container was regularly emptied by teachers.
- In 2016, St. Luke started a collection box in the front office for old Scrip cards. The Scrip cards were taken to Best Buy to be recycled.
- St. Luke School began composting in each classroom to collect unwanted food and food soiled paper during snack time. Fifth-grade students emptied the small compost buckets each day into the lunchroom compost containers, and all compostable materials were then collected weekly by the school's hauler and transported to Cedar Grove Composting facility.
- To remind students what can and cannot be recycled and collected for compost, the school hung up new signs above each recycling and waste station.
- Students monitored lunchroom recycling and waste stations, and helped with collection of food scraps and other compostable materials.



Staff and students installed a hydroponic tower garden.



Students building hydroponic garden structure.



Completed and lit up hydroponic garden.



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- The school placed recycling and compost containers in the parish and in kitchen areas, along with educational waste sorting signs for parish members.

## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2016, the Student Council made videos about energy conservation and showed them during lunch.
- “Turn off the lights” signs were placed near light switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- “Turn off equipment” signs were posted near electric equipment to remind students and staff to turn off computers and other equipment when not in use.
- Energy conservation announcements were included in student take-home packets.
- Classroom monitors checked individual classrooms to make sure that lights and equipment were turned off and blinds were closed to conserve energy.
- School announcements on Mondays included reminders for students and staff to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms and to turn off equipment at the end of the school day.
- The school committed to replacing bulbs with Energy Star LED or fluorescent bulbs when bulbs need to be replaced.
- In April 2015, the school conducted "Black Fridays" on which lights were turned off as much as possible to reduce energy use.
- Classrooms used daylight instead of electric lights whenever possible.
- Teachers and other staff made sure that windows and doors were not left open when heating and cooling was on.
- The head custodian ensured that weekend and vacation shutdown procedures were followed.
- Seventh and eighth-graders participated in climate change education programs put on by Seattle City Light.
- A Day of No Power was held where students and staff were asked to unplug electronics and leave classroom lights and equipment off for the entire day.



Fifth-grade students received a worm bin training, learning how to weigh waste and properly feed the worms.



## Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation announcements were made through out the school year.
- Water conservation practices, such as taking shorter showers and turning off the water while brushing teeth, were included in Thursday Packets for parents.
- “Turn Off Faucet” signs were placed near faucets in classrooms where applicable to remind students and staff to turn off the water when soaping hands or not in use.
- Students measured the flow of various faucets in the school, school staff members checked for leaks and standing water on a quarterly basis, and facilities staff members immediately fixed leaks or standing water.
- Students participated in a project where they tested their home toilets to see if they were leaking. Leaks were reported to teachers and families were encouraged to fix leaks if they were found.
- St. Luke implemented a water conservation pledge campaign during the month of April. Students and parents pledged to conserve water by committing to one or more water conservation actions. Pledge commitments were displayed on rain droplets and hung up near the auditorium.
- St. Luke installed filling stations for reusable water bottles and families were asked to bring their own bottles to the annual walk-a-thon. To encourage this, single-use plastic water bottles were not provided during the event.
- Brown Bear Carwash tickets were sold as a fundraiser for the school because Brown Bar Carwash facilities use eco-friendly detergents, protect the environment by trapping dirt and pollutants that otherwise go into waterways, and use less water compared to hand washing.
- St. Luke School participated in the North City Water District “fix-a-leak” program that encouraged students and staff to conserve water at home and at school.
- Fifth-grade students learned about water conservation during a field trip to Island Wood and eighth-grade students studied water usage around the world, examined their own water use, and committed to strategies for reducing their water use at home and at school.



## **Sustaining Green School recognition**

- To receive recognition as a Sustaining Green School, St. Luke School sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies.
- How the school built on Level One through Level Three practices each year is described below.

## **Sustaining Green School 2016-17**

- In 2016, St. Luke created a school garden and a garden education program in collaboration with Seattle Tilth. Three worm bins were created and maintained in the garden. The first harvest of vegetables was shared at a school lunch.
- St. Luke Cub Scouts winterized the garden beds and cleaned up the garden to get it ready for the spring.
- The school garden program was expanded in 2016-17 and the school maintained raised garden beds, worm bins, and more. In October 2016, St. Luke School organized a garden harvest sale and sold vegetables from its garden. Students shared what they learned about growing the vegetables and each grade level led families on tours around the garden. Proceeds from the sale were used to purchase supplies for the garden.
- The school continued its partnership with Tilth Alliance to deliver and integrate school garden education into preschool through middle school curriculum.
  - Preschoolers planted seeds and learned about worms and how they relate to healthy soil in the garden.
  - Third- and fourth-grade students studied the impact over time of people bringing food seeds and plants with them from other areas.
  - Middle school students learned about the invention of the seed drill, reasons for crop rotation, and how the emergence of large farms had an effect on small farms.



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## Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school maintained a fully functional native plant and vegetable garden with an educational worm bin and an automatic sprinkler system to help conserve water.
- School staff researched hydroponic gardens and purchased a Foody brand hydroponic garden for the school.
- The principal and IB design teacher attended a solar panel class led by City of Shoreline and the city's solar partners to learn about the potential to add solar panels to the roof of the school and church.

## Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- The school built and installed a [hydroponic tower garden](#) which was used as an educational tool for students.
- Fifth-grade students received worm-bin training and learned about food waste reduction.

## Awards

- St. Luke School received the King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2013.
- Teacher Paula Konrady and parent volunteer Maria Kearney received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2015.
- Alicia Sullivan, marketing director, received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in May 2016.