Stillwater Elementary School

School District: Riverview  
School Location: Carnation  
Began participating in Green Schools Program: May 2012  
Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2013

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Stillwater Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 50 percent throughout 2012-13.
- Stillwater regularly promoted waste reduction and recycling practices through school announcements and parent newsletters.
- From January through February 2013, in a display case near its main office, Stillwater exhibited information about being a Green School and tips on how to recycle and compost.
- In May 2012, students measured the amount of compostable materials discarded after lunch. Each lunch period averaged 15 pounds of food waste and food soiled paper.
- As a result of the May 2012 compostable materials audit, the school installed a BioStack worm composting system in the school garden to collect lunchtime compostable materials. The Garden Club used the finished compost in the school’s garden.
- Second-grade students learned about decomposition during King County classroom workshops in 2012, and they helped to monitor the Bio-Stack worm composting system.
- During 2012-13, parent volunteers trained ASB students to assist their peers to sort recyclable and compostable materials in the lunchroom.
- Bulk dispensers and durable lunch trays and utensils reduced waste in the lunchroom.
A share table in the lunchroom for unopened packaged food items decreased food waste.

Custodians Mike Nelson and Rick Bouloumpas supported the school’s waste reduction and recycling efforts by emptying hallway recycling containers, monitoring outdoor collection containers, and repurposing furniture and materials for reuse.

In April 2013, third-grade students collected recyclable materials to create outfits and sculptures featured in a school “trashion” show.

Science classes incorporated waste reduction and recycling lessons. Many materials in the science room were repurposed and reused.

Staff bulletins, parent newsletters, calendars and other announcements were sent electronically to reduce paper use.

Office staff members printed double-sided copies.

In 2011-12, recyclable paper collected by custodians decreased from five bags to two bags per day after the school shared messages about reducing paper use.

In November 2018, the student Green Team and parent volunteers held a Green Week celebration to introduce new lunchroom waste reduction practices. Students participated in a recycling relay, trivia games, and a Trashion show (featuring fashions made from unwanted items) during Green Week.

Starting November 2018, students began sorting milk cartons to be recycled and collecting food scraps to be donated to a local pig farmer.

Throughout 2018-19, Green Team students and parents conducted waste audits to measure and track the amount of garbage, recyclable materials, and food scraps the school generated. By June 2019, students and parents estimated that 81 percent of lunchroom waste was being diverted from the landfill thanks to reducing food waste and recycling milk cartons.

In Spring 2019, Green Team students and parent volunteers installed a school garden to grow fruits and vegetables. These healthy foods were incorporated into school lunches. By the end of the school year, the garden was producing six
pounds of leafy greens each week, allowing the school to replace bagged lettuce with school-grown greens.

Awards

- Custodians Mike Nelson and Rick Bouloumpas received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.