



Horizon Elementary School

School District: Kent

School Location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in February 2015

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Horizon reduced the amount of school garbage by 8.4 cubic yards per month.
- Daily announcements were made to launch participation in the King County Green Schools Program and goals were shared in the school newsletter.
- The school received the King County Earth Challenge assembly to teach students and staff about waste reduction and recycling.
- Head custodian Ray Jenkins attached signs to the lids of each recycling bin to remind students which materials belong in those bins.
- Associated Student Body representatives created 3-dimensional posters for the lunchroom with actual recyclable materials attached to show what items belong in each bin. ASB students emptied recycling bins after lunch and monitored recycling bins to decrease contamination and educate the student body.
- Students and employees reduced food waste by placing unwanted packaged, unopened food on a cafeteria share table for others to take.
- As an alternative to disposable trays, kindergarten and first-grade students used durable baskets that were reused after each meal.
- To reduce waste, loose utensils in dispensers replaced plastic wrapped utensils, bulk condiment dispensers replaced individually wrapped condiments, and only durable plates and utensils were used in the staff room.
- Students used dry-erase boards instead of paper during classroom instruction.



- To limit the amount of paper sent home with students, the school switched to an electronic newsletter and teachers posted class information online.
- The principal set a limit on how much printer paper could be used. Each grade level tracked how many paper copies they made. If paper use exceeded the limit, the grade level was asked to strategize ways to decrease its copy count.
- School materials that teachers did not need were placed in an open area for others to take. Any leftover materials were donated to Goodwill.
- All holiday decorations were stored and reused the following year.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team placed energy conservation stickers on all light switches and electrical equipment around the school building.
- Each classroom designated a student as the energy monitor responsible for turning off the lights whenever the class left the room.
- In PA announcements and during assemblies, the principal reminded staff members and students about energy conservation practices.
- Compared to all district schools, Horizon staff received the most “caught you being green” notes that facility staff gave to teachers who turned off equipment at the end of the school day. Custodians checked daily during winter months to see if blinds were closed to keep the heat in overnight.
- All thermostats were set at 68 – 70 degrees. Students and staff were asked to dress appropriately for the weather.
- When lightbulbs burned out, they were replaced with energy efficient light bulbs.

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

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