



King County Green Schools Program

# Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

## Leota Middle School

**School District:** Northshore

**School Location:** Woodinville

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
October 2008

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2010

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2018

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Leota maintained a recycling rate of 60 percent.
- The school began to recycle in every classroom by adding recycling bins and stickers that list which materials can and can't be recycled.
- To teach students and staff about how to reduce waste and recycle, students in the GET IT Club created signs, posters and an educational video, and
- The GET IT Club hosted a Green Spirit Week during which they made daily presentations and announcements and invited a King County Green Team specialist who provided education in the lunchroom.
- As a result of increased recycling, the school downsized one of its Dumpsters and decreased garbage picks ups.
- Leota's Green Team partnered with kitchen and custodial staff to conduct a four-week lunchroom food composting pilot. Student and staff organizers set up an effective collection system for food scraps, educated the school about what materials can be composted, and weighed and tracked all lunchroom waste volumes daily.



Leota students and staff kick off their food scrap collection program.



Students help to sell bags of compost donated by Cedar Grove Composting facility.



Robin Lane Schommer, parent volunteer, receives the King County award in April 2011.



- On Earth Day, 30 bags of compost donated by parents was spread on school grounds.
- In 2017, the Green Team created a “monster” campaign that encouraged all students to fight trash zombies, wasteful werewolves, etc.
- During the pilot, the school collected more than 100 pounds of food scraps and food soiled paper each day for a total of more than 2,000 pounds of compostable material. Starting in 2010, the school began to have Cedar Grove Composting collect organic materials.
- A parent volunteer worked with students to coordinate a fundraiser to cover the cost of Cedar Grove collection services during the school year. Cedar Grove Composting donated bags of compost, which were purchased by families and friends of Leota. The school raised more than \$1,000, which will pay for all of the school’s composting collection expenses for one year.
- All beginning of the year and incoming sixth-grade orientations included training about Leota’s waste reduction and recycling practices.



Student created conservation sign at Leota.



Student created conservation sign at Leota.

## Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation and pollution prevention facts and tips were shared regularly through morning announcements and informational posters.
- Staff members were encouraged to only run the staff lounge dishwasher when full.
- Students completed an informational campaign about water conservation and climate change around the world by creating posters and actions for World Water Day.
- Sixth-grade leadership classes posted water conservation signs next to all school sinks and checked for any leaks to report to maintenance staff.
- Drought-tolerant plants were incorporated into all school landscaping projects.



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- When replacements were required, Leota installed water efficient and low-flow fixtures and aerators.

## Awards

- Student Cora Byers received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2009.
- Student Audrey Phillips received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2009.
- Custodian Jon Nishimura received a King County Earth Hero at School Award in 2010.
- Parent volunteer Robin Lane Schommer received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2011.
- Leota Junior High was awarded a “Give Kids a Hand” grant from the East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs. The school received \$1,000 for the composting project.

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

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