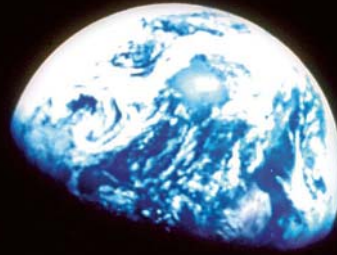


2011 Earth Heroes at School



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

For their outstanding contributions in schools and beyond, King County recognizes the following Earth Heroes and their work to protect the environment.

Awards Presentation – April 14, 2011

Schools

Grand Ridge Elementary School Issaquah School District

Grand Ridge Elementary improved classroom and office recycling, and started a food scrap recycling program. The Media Club created a video on proper recycling and composting, and the school promotes recycling at school events. These efforts increased the recycling rate from 35 to 62.5 percent and earned level one King County Green School recognition.

Island Park Elementary School Mercer Island School District

Several new environmental efforts resulted in Island Park Elementary increasing its recycling rate from 30 to 55 percent. These efforts included composting lunchroom food items, using durable rather than disposable trays and utensils, and installing a learning garden. A level one King County Green School, Island Park has launched an Energy Patrol to achieve level two.

Teachers

Jamie Cooke, Mercer Island High School Mercer Island School District

Jamie, a biology teacher, has been featured in Science Magazine and on National Public Radio for creating opportunities for teachers to work directly with scientists to engage students. Jamie is leading the school Green Team in projects, such as an ambitious lunchroom recycling program, qualifying the school as a level one King County Green School.

Olga Haider and Michelle Pickard Issaquah Middle School, Issaquah School District

The leadership of these two teachers has resulted in a successful and sustainable resource conservation program. Michelle's efforts in coordinating recycling and waste reduction actions to achieve level one King County Green School status set the framework for Olga's efforts involving energy and water conservation and an organic garden to achieve levels two and three.

Marie Hartford, Horace Mann Elementary School Lake Washington School District

Marie inspired students to develop a series of innovative environmental projects and to realize that they can make a difference. These projects include establishing a no-idle zone in the school drop-off area, a student-run worm-bin composting demonstration, and walk-to-school days. Her newest project is guiding her students in creating a native plant garden.

Beverly Mower and students, New Start High School Highline School District

Beverly and her students embarked on a project of habitat restoration and science education at a Burien city park and open space. Students integrated what they learned from Beverly about native plants in the classroom and applied it to benefit the community by clearing 14,000 square feet of invasive plants and replanting the sites with native species.

Maggie Rose, Ingraham High School Seattle School District

To generate interest in science and an awareness of the natural world among her students, Maggie obtained a grant to purchase soil, shovels and seeds, and involved her students in creating a vegetable garden. Students grew, harvested, and preserved food, then took it home to share with their families. She and her students have also planted trees in a Seattle park.

Elizabeth Wing, Carnation Elementary School Riverview School District

Elizabeth's role in the school recycling program helped Carnation Elementary earn level one in the King County Green Schools Program. She is now compiling energy use data to support the school's energy conservation efforts. She has organized education units on organic farming and salmon, and a "passport to sustainability" project on the new state standards for sustainability.

Students

Kate Brunette, Issaquah High School Issaquah School District

Concerned about her school's recycling rate, Kate gathered support from the City of Issaquah, King County Green Schools Program, students, custodial staff, teachers and administration to implement strategies to increase recycling, including adding food scrap collection to the program. Kate has been the driving force behind other environmental projects as well.

Cort Hammond, Tahoma Senior High School Tahoma School District

As Green Team president, Cort established a recycling program that reduces waste and saves money for the school district. Cort helped plan the school's food scrap collection program as well as programs for plastic bag, battery, cell phone and plastic cap collection. Cort has done habitat restoration, trail restoration, native planting, and Adopt-a-Road events.

Annapurni Sriram, Snoqualmie Sustainability Strategy City of Snoqualmie

While a middle school student, Anna wrote to the Mayor of Snoqualmie urging him to address sustainability and climate change. The mayor invited her to serve on the city's Sustainability Advisory Team. For the next two years, Anna participated in meetings, contributed ideas on communication strategies and ways to involve schools, and developed a website and blog.

Dianne Thompson's Third-Period Environmental Science Class, Kent-Meridian High School, Kent School District

After learning about the health and environmental effects of household hazardous products, Dianne's students developed ideas, methods, and materials to share their knowledge with students at the nearby middle school. As a result, hundreds of students learned how to read labels for safety information and how to choose safer alternatives to hazardous products.

Bailey Moritz, Inglemoor High School Northshore School District

As Earth Corps club president, Bailey initiated a semester-long trial to compost school cafeteria waste. She led club officers in a presentation to the district superintendent, met with administrators to address logistics, organized sign-making, monitored sorting stations, recruited help from other campus clubs, and conducted an audit to assess the project's effectiveness.

S.A.V.E., Springbrook Elementary School Kent School District

The Student Association of Vampire Elimination, a.k.a. Mr. Welsh's class, educated students and the community on how to reduce energy waste and eliminate energy vampires. More than 3,000 people visited their booth on energy conservation at the district's technology expo. The students are creating a shift in thinking about how energy, water and other resources are used.



Congratulations to all winners!

Volunteers

Angela Johnson, Woodin Elementary School Northshore School District

Angela worked with students to create a small vegetable garden. She obtained mini-grants to enhance the garden's use as an outdoor learning center where students and the community learn about composting, recycling, and growing organic foods. Angela often devotes weekends and after-school hours to assist in whatever way she can.

Laura Kleppe, Emily Dickinson Elementary School Lake Washington School District

For four years, Laura has managed a week-long, school-wide event for wetlands maintenance on school grounds. She leads students in removing invasive species and restoring native plant habitats; teaches about wetlands as a filter for pollutants; organizes teachers, students, and parents in "wetland week" actions; and enlists businesses to donate to the project.

Robin Lane Schommer, Leota Junior High Northshore School District

Robin helped Leota students start a school-wide, food-scrap compost program and expand the recycling program. She obtained a grant, researched and purchased recycling and compost containers, recruited parents to help with environmental club activities, ran a successful compost sale fundraiser, and implemented a plastic bag recycling program.

Susan Vossler, Carl Sandburg Elementary/Discovery Community School, Lake Washington School District

Susan created a Green Team that encouraged waste reduction and recycling throughout the school, worked with the district to eliminate polystyrene lunch trays, and helped improve the recycling rate from 18 to 43 percent. Susan started the Earth Helpers student group which conducted waste-free lunch and reusable water bottle campaigns. A clean air campaign is next.

Nancy Weil, Mercer Island School District

Nancy's environmental leadership is felt throughout the Mercer Island School District. She started the Sustainability Committee at the Jewish Community Center, the Green Team at Lakeridge Elementary School, and the district Green Team. Her work has helped individual schools and the district reduce waste, increase recycling, and purchase green products.

Staff

Dave Bonham and Katie Cobb Lakeridge Elementary School, Renton School District

Dave and Katie are responsible for the success of Lakeridge's program to recycle cafeteria waste. After helping set up the system, they took ownership of the process, training students to run the recycling stations and teaching them to embrace leadership roles. The benefits include a recycling rate of 33 percent and involved, responsible students.

David Holbrook, Creekside Elementary School Issaquah School District

David started the recycling program on the first day of school at the newly constructed Creekside Elementary. In the first month that the school was open, the recycling rate was an impressive 55 percent. David supports all conservation efforts in this brand new school and maintains its sustainable features with environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Staff and Program

Ginger Ott and Scenic Hill Elementary School Kent School District

Ginger, the school's head custodian, has consistently shown initiative and dedication to recycling, energy conservation, and water conservation. As a result of her efforts, Scenic Hill Elementary is the county's first level three Green School. Scenic Hill Green Team students have taught other students about recycling, resource conservation, and worm bin composting.

Jim Wiesen and Team Yerukim Jewish Day School, Bellevue

Jim, the school's athletic director, invigorated participation in the school recycling program by improving signage, placing bins in classrooms, and using his popular PE class to get the word out about recycling. Team Yerukim students developed a Green Report Card for students and families to assess their lunch waste and recycling knowledge.

King County Green Schools Program

These Earth Heroes at School also participate in the King County Green Schools Program to initiate or expand conservation practices. For more information about the Green Schools Program, contact Dale Alekel at dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov or 206-296-8457.

Carl Sandburg Elementary/Discovery Community School,
Lake Washington School District

Carnation Elementary School, Riverview School District

Crescent Elementary School, Issaquah School District

Grand Ridge Elementary School, Issaquah School District

Inglemoor High School, Northshore School District

Island Park Elementary School, Mercer Island School District

Issaquah High School, Issaquah School District

Issaquah Middle School, Issaquah School District

The Jewish Day School, Bellevue

Kent-Meridian High School, Kent School District

Lakeridge Elementary School, Renton School District

Leota Junior High School, Northshore School District

Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island School District

Mercer Island School District

Scenic Hill Elementary School, Kent School District

Springbrook Elementary School, Kent School District

Tahoma Senior High School, Tahoma School District