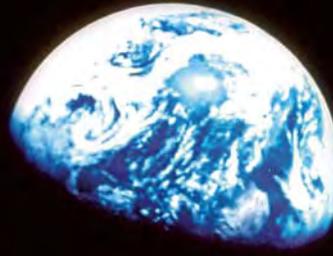


2013

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 these Earth Heroes and their work to protect the environment.

Awards Presentation — April 25, 2013

SCHOOLS

Apollo Elementary School – Issaquah School District

Since joining the King County Green Schools Program in 2010, Apollo Elementary has increased its recycling rate from 31 percent to 59 percent through its recycling program, which encompasses classrooms, offices, the staffroom, and the lunchroom. Students are thoroughly involved as organizers, promoters and participants in the program.

Creekside Elementary School – Issaquah School District

It took less than three years for Creekside Elementary to achieve all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program. Creekside has a recycling rate of 67 percent; automatic light sensors to conserve energy; rain gardens, low-flow faucets and timed irrigation systems to save water; and a no idling policy for both school buses and cars.

Helen Keller Elementary School – Lake Washington School District

Recycling at Helen Keller Elementary saves the district \$2,500 per year. With the addition of lunchroom food-scrap collection, the school reduced its garbage significantly and was recognized as a Level One King County Green School. Teacher Karen Schwartz, custodian Heather McMurchie, parent volunteers, and students make this program a success.

Issaquah Middle School – Issaquah School District

Having completed all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program, Issaquah Middle School continues its commitment to conservation. It has decreased its garbage volume from sixteen cubic yards per week to eight, its natural gas consumption by 27 percent and its electricity use by 22 percent. The student Green Team initiated many water-saving techniques.

Silver Lake Elementary School – Federal Way Public Schools

Staff and students at Silver Lake Elementary started a recycling program in the cafeteria to sort milk cartons, food scraps, and other recyclables from the garbage. They reduced the weekly garbage volume from eight to four cubic yards, lowered the monthly garbage bill by \$81, and increased recycling. The school is on its way to being a Level One King County Green School.

St. Luke School–Shoreline

The Girl Scouts at St. Luke School worked with the school's garbage and recycling hauler to conduct a waste audit and educate the staff and students on proper recycling. St. Luke increased its recycling rate from 26 to 61 percent and decreased its garbage dumpster size from eight to six cubic yards. The school will soon be a Level One King County Green School.

Sunset Elementary School – Issaquah School District

Having recently achieved Level Two of the King County Green Schools Program, Sunset Elementary continues to improve its conservation practices. These include a school-wide recycling program, an education and recognition program and an emphasis on reuse and waste prevention. Conservation has become embedded in the culture of the school.



Lakeridge Elementary School Green Team students.

STAFF

Judy Bowlby – Creekside Elementary School Issaquah School District

Through her effective leadership of conservation practices, program assistant Judy Bowlby helped Creekside Elementary achieve all three levels of the King County Green School Program in three years. With the help of lead custodian Dave Holbrook, Judy started the successful Waste Watchers program, which enlists students to monitor the lunchroom recycling program.

Romanito Celestial, Kahanu Kahoonei and Scott Haines – Sacajawea Middle School, Federal Way Public Schools

To revive a lapsed lunchroom recycling program, administrative staff Kahanu Kahoonei and Scott Haines, and custodian Romanito Celestial worked together to set up the program, recruit student volunteers to monitor the system, and coordinate efforts to promote participation. The efforts resulted in an 80 percent reduction in lunch waste.

Jan Dubois – Ardmore Elementary School Bellevue School District

Librarian Jan Dubois has led conservation efforts at Ardmore Elementary for more than four years. Her ability to partner well with other school staff and motivate student participation has resulted in an all-school commitment to reduce and recycle waste. Ardmore has completed all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program and has achieved a recycling rate of 64 percent.

Eric Ferguson – Highland Middle School Bellevue School District

Assistant principal Eric Ferguson's desire to make a difference for the environment and in the lives of students at Highland Middle School inspires his leadership of the school's conservation efforts. To motivate students to participate in the recycling program, he dressed as a superhero – a sure indicator of commitment to a cause. Highland Middle School has a 53 percent recycling rate.

Patti Huston and Emeterio Marzan – Olympic View Elementary School, Federal Way Public Schools

Custodians Patti Huston and Emeterio Marzan have been vital to the success of Olympic View Elementary's recycling program. They have shown students how to properly sort recyclable materials and have willingly and diligently emptied lunchroom recycling containers. They are a friendly, visible and helpful presence.

TEACHERS

Nancy Bacon – Northshore School District

As a substitute teacher, Nancy Bacon has engaged students in environmental projects and emphasized the importance of community involvement. She set an example by volunteering to help save a neighborhood park, restore streams and protect salmon.

Monica Chun – Enatai Elementary School Bellevue School District

Under Monica Chun's leadership for the last four years, Enatai Elementary has won the City of Bellevue's cafeteria waste reduction contest, raised funds to purchase compostable trays, achieved all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program, and reached a 50 percent recycling rate.

Andy Colleran – Chinook Middle School Bellevue School District

Skillful at motivating students, Andy Colleran has involved students in monitoring the lunchroom recycling stations. He has led the conservation efforts at Chinook Middle School for more than four years. In that time the school has achieved all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program and a 52 percent recycling rate.

Heather McLyman – Lakeridge Elementary School Mercer Island School District

As the faculty lead for the school Green Team, Heather McLyman has organized the classroom and lunchroom recycling programs, supervised the production of green announcements and other means of promoting environmental behaviors, and coordinated school-wide events such as Earth Week activities. She empowers those around her with her can-do attitude.

Greg Phillips – Todd Beamer High School Federal Way Public Schools

Working closely with administrative, cafeteria, and custodial staff, Greg Phillips started a recycling program in the lunchroom. He recruited student volunteers to monitor the recycling stations for proper sorting. By promoting student involvement in the program, he has conveyed to students that they can make a difference in their community.

Maggie Pierce – Illahee Junior High School Federal Way Public Schools

Realizing that recycling in the cafeteria had lapsed over the years, Maggie Pierce enlisted the help of students and staff to revive the program. They focused on proper sorting, incentives for participation, and promotion of the benefits of recycling. Their efforts resulted in a 70 percent reduction in lunch waste.

Liz Savage – Health Sciences and Human Services High School, Highline School District

To help students understand where their food comes from and what the term *organic* means, Liz Savage created a school garden. The school now has nine garden beds which serve as a real-world lab in agriculture, ecosystems, plant biology, and sustainability. The garden provides food to students and their families.

Kristi Stroyan – Medina Elementary School Bellevue School District

Doing just one thing can make a difference. This is what Kristi Stroyan has instilled in students. Her *Just One Thing* campaign reinforced recycling and other environmental behaviors at Medina Elementary enabling it to achieve all three levels of the King County Green Schools Program and reach a recycling rate of 40 percent.

STUDENTS

Northwest Yeshiva High School Green Team – Mercer Island

Under the leadership of students Mathias Cohanim and David Kintzer, the NYHS Green Team monitors recycling containers for proper sorting, collects bottle caps for recycling, partners with Redeeming Soles to collect shoes for reuse, and works with the administration to ensure green products are purchased when available. Northwest Yeshiva is a Level One King County Green School.

Westwood Elementary Fifth-Grade Green Team – Enumclaw School District

Through the efforts of every fifth-grader at Westwood Elementary, the school increased its recycling rate from 43 to 54 percent and was recognized as a Level One King County Green School. The school expanded its lunchroom recycling program to include collection of food scraps for composting. Students use durable lunch trays and utensils and practice energy-saving behaviors.



Issaquah Middle School Green Team.

PROGRAMS

Carl Sandburg Elementary and Discovery Community School Earth's Helpers – Lake Washington School District

These third through fifth-grade Earth's Helpers are dedicated to the environment. They educate others on campus about proper recycling of paper, plastic, and food scraps. On weekends, they help weed the school garden at this pesticide-free school. They are working on water conservation to achieve Level Three of the King County Green Schools Program.

Mattson Middle School Support Center – Kent School District

Joanna Schile and her sixth-period Support Center students collect the recycled materials from all the classrooms at Mattson Middle School. These students, active and visible as contributing citizens of the school and community, model the importance of recycling for other students. As a result, students and staff at Mattson are recycling more.

Somerset Elementary School Staff Green Team – Bellevue School District

The staff Green Team at Somerset Elementary has been essential to the school's success as a Level Three King County Green School. In its four years of steering conservation efforts, it has added food scrap collection to the lunchroom recycling program, trained students to monitor recycling stations, and promoted waste-free lunches to achieve a 63 percent recycling rate.

VOLUNTEERS

Carolyn Counihan and Liz Evans – Lakeridge Elementary School, Mercer Island School District

Through the leadership and commitment of PTA members Carolyn Counihan and Liz Evans, Lakeridge Elementary has a solidly established resource conservation program. A successful lunchroom recycling program, a policy to use compostable plates and utensils at school events, and a bulk ordering system for classroom supplies are just some of the practices Carolyn and Liz initiated and led to completion.

Alternative Formats On Request
206-296-4466 • TTY Relay: 711
1-800-325-6165 ext. 6-4466

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

COMMITTEE'S CHOICE

The Earth Heroes Committee gives special recognition to the following 2013 Earth Heroes for their exceptional work as described by their nominators.

Students

Cassandra Houghton – Tahoma High School Tahoma School District

As a member of her school's Sustainability Ambassadors since her sophomore year and currently as club president, Cassandra Houghton has helped Tahoma High reach Level Two of the King County Green Schools Program. She has also worked on storm water issues for the City of Maple Valley and the district-wide Waste-Free Wednesday project.

Hattie Yang – Redmond High School, Lake Washington School District

As president of the Environmental Club at Redmond High School, Hattie Yang undertook several projects, including tree plantings, a letter-writing campaign to local businesses about the detrimental effects of polystyrene packaging, and a school-wide recycling program. Hattie is personally committed to spreading awareness of the health and environmental impacts of consumer products.

Teacher

Jennifer Gjurasic – Snoqualmie Elementary School Snoqualmie Valley School District

A longtime leader in environmental stewardship, Jennifer Gjurasic oversees the student Green Team whose projects include the school-wide recycling effort, a weekly campus litter pick-up, an electronics recycling campaign, elimination of plastic utensils and polystyrene bowls from the lunchroom, and a reusable bag and bottle campaign.

*Congratulations
to all winners!*