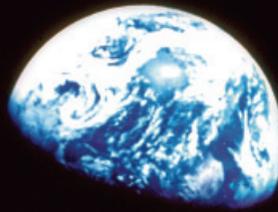


# Earth Heroes at School 2007 Winners

Awards Presentation – April 19, 2007



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
**Solid Waste Division**

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

## Teachers

### **Meggan Atkins, Maywood Middle School, Renton**

Ms. Atkins responded to a need at her school for a recycling program by working with leadership students to develop a collection system, promote the program through posters, and educate other students through presentations and announcements. Due to these efforts, the school has more than doubled the amount of recycling in one year, resulting in reduced garbage costs for the district.

### **Gabrielle Herring, Diane Parham, Leslie Smith, Endeavor Elementary School, Issaquah**

This team of teachers developed the Endeavor Outdoor Elementary Classroom, turning an overgrown hillside and bioswale into a learning resource for the school and community. This project brought community businesses, volunteers, the Boy Scouts, district administrators, parents and students together in the common cause of environmental restoration.

### **Angie Laulainen, Karen Dunning and Environmental Club, Rose Hill Junior High School, Redmond**

These teachers and students developed a comprehensive and effective recycling program. In addition to cans, bottles and paper, the program collects printer cartridges, cell phones and handheld devices for recycling. Ms. Laulainen, Ms. Dunning, and this group of dedicated students have consistently come up with new ways to promote recycling that are fun, interesting and educational.

### **John Schmied, Skyview Junior High School, Bothell**

Mr. Schmied conceived of and served tirelessly as the project manager for the establishment of an environmental center in the woods adjacent to the school. He coordinated the work of 500 students and 60 parents in building trails, removing invasive plants and planting native ones. As a result, students have learned firsthand about wetland building, sustainable forestry, and water flow and water quality.

### **Scott Weide, Cascade Middle School, Auburn**

Mr. Weide's passion to preserve Pacific Northwest natural resources led him to focus his curriculum on local issues relevant to his students such as the Olson Creek Salmon Habitat Restoration project. Mr. Weide has led his students in restoring nearly 200 feet of the riparian zone of Olson Creek with native plant species and collecting cuttings and seeds to repopulate the school's nursery so the project can continue in the years to come.

### **Maggie Windus, Juanita Elementary School, Kirkland**

Realizing a need to improve the recycling program at her school, Ms. Windus involved students in collecting recyclables from the classrooms, expanded the program to include bottles and cans, and was instrumental in adding food waste to the collection system. Ms. Windus's students learned how to plan, start and promote a recycling program and learned how their efforts were related to other environmental issues.

### **Elizabeth Wing and Students, Carnation Elementary School, Carnation**

In addition to fully integrating environmental education into her classroom lessons, Ms. Wing involves her students in recycling activities and in the maintenance of two gardens which serve as outdoor classrooms for the entire school. Ms. Wing's approach to teaching and her passion for environmental education has inspired her students and parent volunteers to take on other stewardship projects.

## Students

### **Clara Manahan, Philip Park, Teal Stannard, West Woodland Elementary School, Seattle**

These three students were leaders in establishing West Woodland as the third school in the Seattle School District to have a lunchroom composting and recycling program. They conducted research and shared their findings with the rest of the school; they designed a lesson plan to teach other students how to sort materials for composting, recycling and disposal; they monitored for quality control; they did this all with enthusiasm and passion.

Visit the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks website for environmental resources for teachers and students.  
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/learning/LRNtop.htm>

Become a King County Green School  
[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenschools](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenschools)



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## **Kirsten Minor, Taryn Grant, Pauline Lao, Lake Washington High School, Kirkland**

These three students took the initiative to increase recycling awareness and participation when they discovered that many recyclables were ending up in the trash. They recruited other students, developed a collection plan, obtained recycling containers from the King County Green Schools Program, created educational posters, and started a classroom competition to get students excited about recycling. Their leadership and enthusiasm has had a significant impact on the school.

## **Marielle Price, Rose Smith, and the Earthbound Club, Bellevue High School, Bellevue**

Co-presidents, Ms. Price and Ms. Smith, have built the Earthbound Club membership to nearly 30 students and were instrumental in organizing a symposium on climate change for their classmates and the community. The Earthbound Club hosted nearly 100 people at "Who Turned Up the Heat?" The club, with teacher Ted Cox as advisor, has continued to tackle issues such as increasing recycling efforts and getting involved in local environmental projects.

## **Programs**

### **Apollo Elementary School Recycling Program, Issaquah**

This successful recycling program has reduced the flow of lunch room waste to the landfill by 50 percent and increased the volume of recyclables collected by 30 percent. Lead custodian, Mike Engren, organized the lunch room to allow easy implementation of the program. Teachers Karen DeBrueler, Renee Coon and Eric Nelson and their students provided educational messages to ensure participation. The cafeteria staff assists students on a daily basis to sort the waste properly.

### **Chautauqua Elementary School Multi-age 1,2,3 Program, Vashon Island**

Teachers Glenda Berliner, Tina Taylor and Gerie Wilson, and their students are the dedicated caretakers of the Chautauqua Kid's Garden. The garden serves as an outdoor classroom where students design science experiments, learn to produce food, and share the bounty of the garden with the food bank. Students also collected seeds from the garden, enclosed them in hand-made packages and sold them, with proceeds going to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

### **Explorer West Middle School Sustainability Initiative, Seattle**

The Sustainability Initiative integrates curriculum and experience into a unique school culture of decision and action. In the classroom, science, global studies, English and math courses all connect in some way to the earth as an integrated system. Outdoor education includes "leave no trace" wilderness practices, an annual Sustainability Festival, and green campus components of composting, recycling and native plant gardening.

## **Laurelhurst Elementary School Lunchroom Composting and Recycling, Seattle**

Due to the efforts of the fifth grade students and teachers, lunch room garbage at Laurelhurst Elementary has been reduced by 88 percent. The fifth graders trained the other students how to separate their lunch waste for composting and recycling. Teachers Pat Howard, Grace Dubin, and Kristin Capps and parent volunteer Mindy McGovern all contributed significantly to establishing the program, which has demonstrated to the community that teamwork can have an impact on our environment.

## **Seattle Country Day School K-3 Division, Seattle**

This elementary school program is the only one in Seattle to adopt three local parks. Students work on various projects such as planting flowers and trees, weeding, spreading mulch, raking leaves and collecting litter at the parks. To increase their understanding of the environment they are helping to care for, they invite guest speakers to talk about the plant and animal life in the park. Each June the third graders make a PowerPoint presentation to the community council.

## **Secondary Academy for Success Green Team, Bothell**

The many projects of these high school students include a forum at which they taught junior high school students about safer alternatives to hazardous products; a garbage study and development of a recycling program at school; and work parties to remove invasive plants and participate in sustainable farming at 21 Acres, an agricultural and environmental learning center in the Sammamish Valley. Program advisors are Judy Ellis, Laurie Nunnelee, and Barbara Wilson.

## **Sunny Hills Elementary School Recycling Program, Sammamish**

The success of this recycling program is the result of exceptional teamwork by Vice Principal Chasma Gerron, lead custodian Marlin Collins, and teachers Regan Schildt and Shelby Lee and their students. Program logistics, promotion, and monitoring tasks were spread among the team to enable the smooth participation of everyone at the school. The program has reduced garbage costs for the district, improved awareness of the importance of recycling to the environment, and demonstrated the value of teamwork.

## **Tahoma Outdoor Academy, Tahoma High School, Covington**

This program led by teachers Tracy Krause, Mike Hanson, and Jamie Vollrath, integrates science, language arts, health and fitness with outdoor and environmental learning, and provides students with experience stewarding natural resources through restoration and trail work. Students study watersheds, plant identification and general ecology, and apply their knowledge to King County parks and natural lands.