

King County Green Schools Program



Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Mission

To provide King County students, schools, and districts with tools and support to

- learn about resource conservation and sustainability.
- begin and expand waste reduction, recycling, and other conservation practices.
- involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship, with attention to cultural differences, equity and social justice, and best practices for engagement.
- operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities.

Program benefits

Assistance - King County provides assistance and guidance.

Resources - King County provides indoor recycling bins, signs, information, and more.

Student learning and leadership

- Students learn about conservation and develop leadership skills as they take action in their schools, homes, and communities.

Cost savings - Conservation practices save money.

Recognition - Participants receive recognition.

Program summary

- Eligible schools and school districts: K - 12, public and private, located in King County outside the City of Seattle.
- Program participants may progress through program levels, starting with Level One - waste reduction and recycling. After completing education and actions in each level, participants receive recognition.
- King County provides **assistance** and **resources**.
 - Best Practices Guides, assessments, and other tools.
 - Guidance for schools, student Green Teams, and districts to learn about sustainability, make improvements, track successes, and meet program criteria to receive recognition at each program level.
 - Signs and indoor recycling bins (up to \$250 for schools serving 40% or more free and reduced meals, and up to \$150 for other schools, although extra bins *may* be available for larger schools).

To receive help and recognition

- Step 1 Sign up:** A school or district may fill out a [program application form](#) at any time.
- **Schools:** Fill out the **school** application. Include names and contact information of at least one staff member (such as a teacher, principal, or custodian).
 - **Student groups:** When your school signs up to participate, assistance is available to your student Green Team or other student group working on sustainability.
 - **Districts:** Fill out the **district** application form. Include names and contact information of two or more district staff members (such as curriculum director, facility manager, resource conservation manager, or food services director).
- Step 2 Learn about and improve conservation practices** *with help from King County.*
To receive recognition, start with **Level One - Waste Reduction and Recycling.**
- Step 3 Celebrate and share successes!**

Recognition

Each school receives a banner, web logo, and success story on the program website after completing Level One criteria. When a school completes Level Two or Three criteria, success stories are updated, and the school receives a web logo and a "Level 2" or "Level 3" sticker for its banner. Sustaining Green Schools receive a banner ribbon each school year they meet the criteria.

Each district receives a web logo and website success story after completing each program level.

Schools and districts that do not meet program level criteria are still eligible to receive help.

Student teams receive a certificate of achievement after completing a new project to reduce waste, improve recycling, conserve energy or water, protect habitat, or meet another resource conservation goal. Student teams receive a certificate of achievement and prizes after completing a new school-wide activity or two new classroom/grade-level projects. See [Green Team assistance - King County](#).

Beyond Level One: Build on Level One successes by engaging in other program levels.
If desired, Level Three can be completed before Level Two.

- Level Two**
1. Sustain Level One waste reduction and recycling practices.
 2. Complete **energy conservation** education and actions.

- Level Three**
1. Sustain Level One and Level Two practices.
 2. Complete **water conservation and pollution prevention** education and actions.

- Sustaining level**
1. Sustain Level One, Level Two, and Level Three practices.
 2. Complete an additional conservation action or educational strategy from a Level One, Two, or Three Best Practices Guide -- or any of these Green Schools Program Best Practices Guides: **Green Building; Healthy Schools; Litter Reduction; Transportation.**

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