



May-June 2021 Green Team Activities

Celebrating 2020-21 Green Teams and Recruiting for 2021-22

As the 2020-21 school year comes to an end, the Green Schools Program is amazed at what schools and Green Teams have accomplished over the past year. Below are ways you can celebrate your successes as well as start recruiting new people for the next school year.

1. **Green Team recognition**

In June 2021, King County Green Schools Program will recognize student Green Teams through e-certificates, a sharable social media icon, inclusion in the June program newsletter, and more! (See page 2 for information about our June 9 virtual gathering to recognize student teams.)

By May 31, fill out this **short** (5 – 10 minutes) [survey](#) so your student team can receive recognition from the program.

(Reminder: Schools will not be recognized this spring, but your 2020-21 education and actions will count toward spring 2022 recognition.)

2. **Celebrate Green Team successes**

- Give out individual [certificates of recognition](#) to members of your Green Team. Fill in each fillable PDF certificate with the name of a student and either send electronically or print.
- Create a [Word Cloud](#) based on educational topics, initiatives, or activities done by your Green Team.
- Email or send notes of praise to the parents of your student Green Team members.
- Have students write thank you cards or notes to someone who taught them about sustainability.
- In the school newsletter, name student Green Team members and describe their achievements.

3. **Create a virtual Green Team time capsule**

Have students write down their experiences over the past year. If they were to create a time capsule, what would they include to represent their successes? What were their challenges and how did they overcome them? What would they include to motivate Green Teams in the future? The results of this could be shared in a PowerPoint slide show or on a Padlet wall.

4. **Honor student activism**

In 2020-21, student Green Teams have pushed for a more sustainable and just world. Student activism can improve engagement in school, provide opportunities for deeper learning, and involve the next generation in civic engagement. Below are ways you can celebrate this work.

- Lead your student Green Team members in a structured conversation about activism they have been involved in over the past year. How can they carry their activism work forward to the next school year and beyond?
- Conduct a [Harkness Debate](#) about an issue team members feel strongly about (grades 8-12).

5. **Virtual gathering to celebrate successes! - June 9 from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.**

Mark your calendars! The final virtual gathering of the year will focus on celebrating Green Team successes. Students are welcome to attend to get the recognition they deserve.

You must [register](#) in advance. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with a link for joining the gathering via Zoom video or call.

If you want your team's work to be highlighted at the event, contact your King County Green Schools Program representative or email GreenSchools@triangleassociates.com

6. **Plan for next school year**

Start recruiting your 2021-22 Green Team now!

- **Recruit adults**

Invite a minimum of two school staff members, such as teachers, custodians, and administrators, to help lead or assist with the team. Parent volunteers can help to reduce staff member time.

Designate a staff Green Team leader who will be ready to inform students about waste reduction, recycling, and other conservation practices **during the first few weeks of school.**

- **Recruit students**

There is no such thing as too large or too small a Green Team! This year one Green Team assembly involved over 260 student team members, while other teams had fewer than ten students. Teams of many sizes do great work. Depending on the interests of team members or on school goals, large teams can be divided into sub-committees focused on climate, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, water conservation and pollution prevention, healthy schools, or school gardens.

- **Identify next year's leaders:** For secondary school students we recommend they hold elections this spring to identify next year's student leaders.
- **Promote:** Use posters, fliers, and/or morning, lunch, and assembly announcements to invite students to participate. Secondary school students often use social media as an effective outreach strategy.
- **Ask an existing club to include sustainability education and activities:** Instead of forming a separate "Green Team," some schools ask other clubs to include a sustainability sub-committee to carry out education and actions related to resource conservation. Sustainability activities are a great fit for science, environmental, gardening, and community service clubs (i.e., ASB or Key Club).