

Apollo Elementary School

School District: Issaquah

School Location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2011

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2013

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Sustaining Green School 2015-16:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019



Composting education: Students create posters about composting.



Water conservation education: Students create posters about conserving water.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Apollo Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 45 percent thanks to a school-wide program that included collection of recyclable and compostable materials in classrooms, offices, the lunchroom, and the staff room.
- With assistance from City of Issaquah, Apollo launched a compostable materials collection program in 2010.
- Fourth-graders were trained on proper food scrap sorting and monitored lunchroom food scrap,



Lunchroom waste and recycling station signs and sign-holder created by Apollo Green Team to help students and staff properly sort lunch waste.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

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recycling, and garbage stations for three weeks to ensure proper sorting of materials. Compostable materials collected from the lunchroom, staff room, and classrooms were delivered to Cedar Grove's composting facility.

- The fourth-grade student Green Team provided school-wide education and promotion for recycling and food scrap collection. Outreach included presentations and quizzes in every classroom and collaboration with the first-grade Green Team to make posters and signs. Students placed stickers listing what can and can't be recycled on all recycling containers in the school.
- The student Green Team met once per month, monitored recycling stations twice a week, and helped other students sort their waste properly. The team promoted waste-free lunches via a video, announcements, and a district STEMposium activity.
- Apollo's staff Green Team made a recycling and composting presentation to all teachers at a staff meeting. Waste reduction and recycling information and school practices were posted on the school website.
- One class held a week-long aluminum can drive and donated proceeds to earthquake relief efforts in Japan.
- School administration encouraged staff to reduce paper use by making double-sided copies, using email for communication, and sending newsletters and parent information electronically.
- A reuse box for "Good on One Side" paper was placed in the staff workroom, and construction paper leftovers were used for notes and art projects.
- To encourage reuse, Apollo held a book swap in during its annual Spring Fling.
- Along with all schools in Issaquah, Apollo replaced plastic wrapped utensils with unwrapped utensils and eliminated the use of straws.
- In 2012-13 Apollo participated in the district's Zero Waste Challenge. The school placed within the top three finalists.
- Apollo's Green Team conducted an annual sustainability pledge for classrooms. Pledges were displayed in the lunchroom. Classrooms that conserved resources received rewards.



Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The student Green Team posted signs near light and electrical equipment to remind students and employees to turn them off when not in use.
- Information was sent to employees and parents about the school's energy use via the Apollo Orbiter, a monthly e-newsletter.
- A local environmental engineer visited the fourth-grade classroom to discuss the energy practices at his work site and how energy conservation is connected to the science curriculum.
- To conserve energy, teachers shut off some of the overhead lights when natural light was sufficient.
- The Issaquah School District's contract with its drink machine vendor included a requirement that lights on the machine's display would be permanently turned off.
- The school technician sent periodic reminders to staff to use energy efficient modes for smart boards and projectors.
- Employees were reminded via email to keep windows and doors closed when heating and cooling is on.
- Classrooms and multipurpose room used auto-shut off lighting.
- Computers were shut down automatically each evening to conserve energy.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Green Team students regularly shared water conservation facts and tips in school announcements.
- During Green Week, teachers shared conservation information with their classes, and students were asked to sign conservation pledges.
- The Green Team watched the "Story of Bottled Water" video. Teachers sent home requests for students to only bring reusable water bottles to school.
- The school shared its water use rates in school announcements, teacher newsletters, and emails to parents.



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- Kitchen staff refrained from pouring fats, oils, or grease down school drains. A sign with the same reminder was posted in the staff room.
- Water conservation signs were laminated and posted by each school sink.
- The majority of school faucets were set to turn off automatically when not in use.
- To conserve water, the school installed low-flow toilets, low-flow sink aerators, and dual flush toilets when possible.
- Apollo eliminated irrigation lines to reduce summer water use.
- Water and energy conservation practices were listed on the school's Green Team webpage, which was linked on the school's homepage.

Sustaining Green School recognition

- Apollo Elementary was recognized as a Sustaining Green School for sustaining and building on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies.
- How the school built on its Level One through Level Three practices each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Green Team activities and successes throughout the school year were shared electronically with the parent community and on the school website.
- The school increased waste-free Wednesday lunches from a one-time event in the spring 2015 to once each month in the 2015-16 school year. Waste-free Wednesday reminders and tips were promoted during lunches, in announcements and e-newsletters, and in-person at the school's science night.
- The Green Team hosted a waste reduction and recycling booth at the school's Earth Day science night and facilitated a trash, recycling, and compostable materials sorting game. Participants earned a Rocket Slip (Apollo award) or Earth globe key chain as a prize. Students encouraged adults to pack waste free lunches.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Apollo increased the frequency of waste-Free Wednesdays from monthly to weekly.



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- The school celebrated Earth Week in April 2017. Students created posters, helped prepare rewards for waste free lunches, and made school-wide announcements.
- The school piloted a change from disposable utensils to reusable durable metal utensils in the cafeteria during one lunch.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school expanded its use of reusable metal utensils in the cafeteria from only the fifth-grade lunch to all school lunches.
- The student Green Team participated in the district-wide STEMposium in February and led data-driven waste-free lunch activities.
- New lunchroom waste and recycling signs and sign-holders were installed.

Sustaining Green School 2018-2019

- At the September 2018 all-staff meeting, the Green Team advisor presented about Green Schools Program participation and goals for the 2018-19 school year.
- The Green Team worked with a King County representative to create a video on how to properly sort waste in the cafeteria. The video was shared with students and teachers in November 2018.
- The Green Schools Program assisted the district to set up a food donation program. Apollo's kitchen manager monitored a cafeteria food share program in which students placed unopened, packaged items and whole fruits with inedible skins from the school lunch program in a Share Bin for other students to take. Once each week, the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank picked up leftover Share Bin items.
- Students continued to sort garbage, recyclable materials, and compostable materials in their classrooms.

Awards

- Apollo Elementary School won the Waste Free Lunch Challenge sponsored by City of Issaquah and Issaquah School District. Apollo's 601 students generated two pounds of waste - only 0.054 ounces per student - during one lunch period.