



Briarwood 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 December 2011

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Briarwood Elementary maintained a recycling rate of 53 percent through school-wide collection of recyclable and compostable materials in classrooms, offices, staffroom, and lunchroom.
- In 2014-15, students created a skit and a video about recycling and waste reduction, including using both sides of paper and using durable water bottles. Presentations were shared at an all-school assembly, in classrooms, and in the cafeteria.
- With help from City of Issaquah, the school launched a compostable materials collection program in spring of 2010. Compostable materials were delivered to Cedar Grove Composting.



Student monitors in Briarwood's lunchroom.



Students recycle and monitors provide guidance.



Student monitors ready to help with lunchroom recycling.



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Success Story

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- Third- and fourth-grade Go Green Team lunchroom helpers were trained on proper lunchroom sorting. The students regularly monitored lunchroom food scrap, recycling, and garbage containers to ensure proper sorting.
- Signs were posted in the lunchroom to show which items can be composted and recycled, and which items should be placed in garbage containers.
- Students placed stickers listing what can and can't be recycled on recycling containers throughout the school.
- Along with all schools in Issaquah School District, Briarwood replaced plastic wrapped utensils with unwrapped utensils and eliminated the use of straws.
- The school used durable trays that were washed and reused.
- 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 crayon recycling bin was kept in the staff workroom. The crayons were collected monthly and recycled by a Briarwood parent who used them to make new crayons.
- Paper reuse containers were placed in all classrooms for paper that has only been used on one side.
- In 2014, Briarwood held its first waste-free Wednesday lunch. Student Green Team members presented information to students during lunch on how to reduce food waste and garbage.
- A refrigerated bin was added to the lunchroom salad bar for students to place unwanted, unopened packaged items from the school lunch program. The items were distributed as snacks to students in the before and after school programs.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Stickers and signs were placed on every light switch and on electronic equipment to remind students and staff to turn them off when not in use.
- The Go Green Team members shared energy conservation facts and tips with students and staff during morning announcements.
- Team members researched energy saving tips that were added to the Go Green Team page on the school's website.



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- The Go Green Team calculated their personal carbon footprints, and developed plans for how they could reduce their carbon footprint at home and school.
- After-school activities were centralized into specific areas to help reduce energy use in unoccupied areas of the building.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- The Go Green Team shared water conservation facts in morning video announcements.
- Go Green Team members pledged to take shorter showers and turn off faucets when soaping their hands and brushing teeth.
- Students planted and maintained a student garden.
- Go Green Team members posted reminders about conserving water next to each sink, audited school faucets for leaks and water flow rates, and informed custodians about automatic faucets that took significantly longer to turn off.

Sustaining Green School recognition

- Briarwood Elementary sustained and built 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 Three achievements each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- In December 2015, the school received King County's Earth Challenge assembly and classroom workshops.
- King County Green Schools Program trained the student Green Team on how to sort recyclable and compostable materials.
- The Green Team worked in coordination with Issaquah School District to eliminate pesticide use in the school's Go Green Garden.
- Monthly green tips and reminders were sent by email to all staff.
- Briarwood promoted waste-free lunches once each month, then expanded to weekly waste-free Wednesdays. Green Team students made morning announcements and



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created and performed skits to promote waste-free Wednesdays. The lunchroom generated less than one pound of trash at the February 2016 waste-free lunch.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school took part in a King County waste reduction and recycling assembly and students participated in follow up classroom workshops.
- The student Green Team was trained by the King County Green Schools Program on proper recycling and composting.
- The student Green Team picked up litter around the school.
- Energy conservation tips were posted on the school's Go Green webpage, and water conservation signs were placed by all sinks.
- Students maintained a school garden that conserved water and Girl Scouts helped weed and prepare the garden.
- Aerators were placed on faucets throughout the school.
- Morning announcements were made about ways to prevent waste.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- The school switched from disposable to durable silverware in the cafeteria.
- Student Green Team members completed a coin drive in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to help save the arctic fox.
- Students visited Liberty High School for Sustainability Talks about food systems.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Go Green Team members met regularly throughout the school year to focus on conservation efforts.
- To reduce energy use, the school building was designed and built with day lighting and natural ventilation strategies.
- A King County Green Schools Program representative trained Go Green Team students on how to help their peers sort recyclable and compostable materials.