



Carnation Elementary School

School district: Riverview

School location: Carnation

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
November 2008

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2009

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

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2012

Sustaining Green School recognition:
Achieved in

- 2014-15
- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20



Earth Hero at School Award
Teacher Elizabeth Wing and her students receive the King County award in April 2011



Carnation students test water

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Carnation Elementary achieved a 47 percent recycling rate and then increased its recycling rate to 54 percent in 2018-19.
- Recycling bins were placed in classrooms for paper, milk cartons, bottles and aluminum cans.
- Recycling stickers listing what can be recycled were placed on all recycling bins.
- The Green Team created and showed the entire school a video about recycling and waste reduction.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Carnation's third-grade Green Team helped eliminate unwanted newspaper subscriptions and mail, created paper reuse trays for classrooms, and educated their schoolmates about waste reduction and recycling.
- Students created and hung 3-dimensional posters that included examples of recyclable materials.
- Students participated in recycling presentations around the community.
- Materials were reused for art projects in several classrooms.
- The school hosted the King County school assembly program about waste reduction and recycling.
- The Green Team reminded students and staff of proper waste sorting practices by displaying creative signage, making PA announcements, placing monitors at waste stations, and planning schoolwide assemblies.
- In winter 2018, Carnation received a grant to install water bottle filling stations to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles. A second grant was received to purchase reusable aluminum water bottles for distribution at the school walkathon.
- Students created a Carnation Elementary Tiger Pledge based on the 4Rs – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and on conservation of electricity and water.



Green Team students celebrate rain gardens as a solution to water pollution



Environmental Club students present an assembly about food scrap collection. Food scraps collected at school are donated to a local pig farm.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2014-15, the school placed "turn off lights when leaving room" and "turn off equipment when not in use" signs throughout the school, including classrooms.
- Students presented energy conservation information to the school board.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The Green Team created and presented skits to educate students and staff members about energy conservation. The skits and Energy Commercials were presented throughout the school year during lunches.
- Students worked with Oxbow Farm to study and analyze how the school's energy conservation practices impacted salmon in the Snoqualmie River. Students helped interpret for Spanish speaking families during the project.
- In each classroom, students took turns being "Technology Engineers" to check areas of the school for energy conservation practices.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- To educate students and staff about water conservation and pollution prevention, students led skits and made announcements during lunch.
- Students studied the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed and developed skits, posters, and bulletin board displays about protecting the local watershed.
- Students partnered with the Snoqualmie Tribe and other local watershed organizations to study the health of the Snoqualmie River and promote conservation in Tolt River watershed.
- Third-grade students learned about water sources in different parts of the world.
- In 2017-18, the school installed a rain garden to help prevent water pollution and drought tolerant plants were planted on the campus. Educational signs taught students about native and drought resistant plants.
- Teachers were asked to conserve water in their classrooms. Reminders about water conservation were posted near all sinks.
- Students worked with Nature Vision to test the Snoqualmie River for temperature, PH levels, and oxygen. Students looked for water insects that indicate river health. Photos about the project were displayed on a bulletin board.
- Head custodian Rick Harstad checked regularly for water leaks. To reduce water use, instead of hosing, brooms and rakes were used to clean concrete areas.
- When old fixtures and equipment needed to be replaced, low-flow and water efficient models were purchased.

The school 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 did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

The school held a warm clothing drive to show students how items can be reused for a good cause. Boxes of used clothing were collected from classrooms and students graphed how many items were collected each day. Students collected over 700 items in three days.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- At the start of the school year, every student participated in a workshop about water conservation. The importance of clean and healthy water both locally and globally was included in curriculum.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing organized education units on organic farming, salmon, and a Passport to Sustainability project on state standards for sustainability.
- Students created posters about healthy rivers based on evidence the students collected at local rivers. The posters emphasized the importance of healthy riparian zones for migrating salmon and were shared at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) night which was attended by the entire school community.
- Intermediate grades enhanced their science curriculum by studying the local watershed through field excursions where students walked to local rivers and creeks and recorded healthy and non-healthy riparian zones.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Messages encouraging water conservation at home, at school, and in the community were shared with parents and students via the school's teaching blog in conjunction with this year's Sustaining Green School project.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The Snoqualmie Tribe partnered with students to plant trees along the Snoqualmie River near Fall City Park.
- The Green Team initiated a Community Rain Garden campaign which culminated in a Rain Garden/Water Pollution Prevention booth at STEM Night in April 2017. The campaign was promoted through school announcements, parent newsletters, teaching blogs, and student-made posters. The Green Team partnered with Snoqualmie Stewards who provided the community with educational and practical resources to plant rain gardens at their homes, schools, and local businesses.
- Green Team members created signs to promote water conservation at drinking fountains.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

The Green Team collaborated with community partners to reduce food waste. In fall 2017, the school began collecting leftover food scraps for donation to a pig farm. Green Team students monitored waste stations and shared information about food waste sorting in theatrical assemblies and through bulletin board displays.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- Administrators reminded employees to follow energy conservation practices before weekends and school breaks.
- The school encouraged students to join the Environmental Club to help with Green School goals.
- The Environmental Club created a bulletin board outside the lunchroom to share facts about waste reduction and recycling. The club also displayed the Tiger Conservation Pledge to encourage waste reduction and conservation of energy and water.
- The Environmental Club initiated a Waste Free Lunch campaign in which students researched waste and alternatives to disposable items. Students



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

promoted the campaign by sharing the cost benefits of using reusable instead of disposable items, and encouraged waste-free practices by making signs, monitoring lunchroom waste stations, and performing a skit on how to pack a waste free lunch.

- The cafeteria replaced disposable utensils with durable, reusable utensils.
- Custodial and maintenance employees managed the onsite rain garden.
- To reduce water use and encourage students to use reusable water bottles, the school installed water bottle filling stations with water conservation facts posted next to them.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Environmental Club students created three-dimensional signs to help others understand how to sort garbage, recyclable, and compostable materials correctly.
- Environmental Club members joined the [Kids Against Plastic](#) campaign to reduce plastic use and protect water habitats. Students created and displayed posters to educate the school community about the effects of ocean plastic pollution and promote the use of reusable products. The club sold reusable straws, bags, and bottles in the student store.
- Students participated in a Green Team workshop to plan an assembly about reducing plastic waste and ocean pollution. They presented the assembly to the school community and encouraged action on reducing plastic pollution.
- Students conducted a school tour after winning the U.S. Green Ribbon School award. They highlighted how their schools helped to reduce waste, conserve energy and water, and prevent pollution.

Awards

- Carnation Elementary School received the U.S. Green Ribbon School award in spring 2018.
- Teacher Elizabeth Wing received King County Earth Heroes at School awards in 2011 and 2016.