



Creekside Elementary School

School district: Issaquah

School location: Sammamish

Began Participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2010

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in November 2010

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 2014-15:
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 April 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019

Sustaining Green School 2019-20:
Achieved in May 2020



Earth Hero at School Award
David Holbrook receives the King County award in April 2011



Student Waste Watchers club

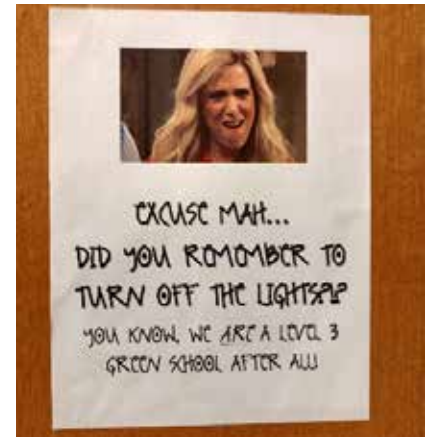


Student Waste Watchers oversee cafeteria recycling

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Creekside increased its recycling rate to 63 percent.
- In addition to classroom recycling, custodian Dave Holbrook began a lunchroom recycling program which includes cans, bottles, cartons, food scraps and other compostable materials.
- Holbrook and teacher volunteers oversaw the Waste Watchers program in which students are trained to monitor lunchroom waste recycling bins daily.

- The school librarian read recycling-focused books to all classes.
- In 2011, the student leadership group developed a movie about recycling that was shown school wide.
- With PTSA coordination, Creekside Elementary participated in TerraCycle's Capri Sun Juice Pouch Brigade, which turns juice pouches into bags, clipboards, pencil cases, waste baskets, and fences.
- The staff workroom and classrooms started "good on one side" boxes for reusing paper, as well as reuse boxes for construction paper in work rooms.
- School and PTSA communication were sent electronically to reduce paper use.
- In spring 2011, a first-grade classroom made a class book of how they reduce, reuse and recycle. One of the students made a video recording to demonstrate how she reduces, reuses and recycles at home.
- In 2012, as part of a Girl Scout Gold Award project, a high school student created signs in the lunchroom to show which items can be composted and recycled, and which items must be placed in garbage containers.
- The Student Council assisted with conservation projects such as poster making and announcements.
- Weekly waste-free Wednesdays were promoted and monitored in the cafeteria.
- In November 2016, PTSA held a school-wide book swap. Students and community members donated books into bins which were first offered up to teachers to build their classroom libraries. Leftover books were donated.



Humorous energy conservation sign at Creekside Elementary School

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Creekside Elementary opened its doors in September 2010. The new building was built to be certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building.
- Automatic light sensors were installed in all regularly occupied rooms. Classrooms discussed the auto light system so students would be aware of the technology.
- Shields were placed in all classrooms to reflect light into the room, allowing lights to be automatically turned off when an adequate amount of light is present.
- To save energy, the Issaquah School District provided a software system to automatically shut down school computers in the evenings.



- In 2011, fifth-grade students read an issue of Time for Kids on energy conservation and wrote summaries about what they learned.
- First-grade students engaged in lessons about water and energy consumption at home and explored how to sustainably use materials in classrooms such as using pencils, crayons, glue, etc. until they are completely used up.
- Creekside instituted and promoted a no-idling policy that applies to all vehicles, including school buses.
- Eighty-two percent of Creekside students rode the bus to school instead of being driven to school in individual cars.
- Signs reminding students and staff to turn off the lights and electronics signs were posted as reminders to conserve energy.
- Thermostats remained set between 68-70 degrees, and heat was turned completely off at 4 p.m. and on weekends.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Students read “green tips” in morning announcements to raise awareness about topics such as water conservation.
- Students maintained the vegetable, flower, and rain gardens throughout the school campus.
- The school ordered rain barrels to conserve water in their school garden.
- In 2012, as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, a high school student worked with fifth-grade students to create a walking educational field trip on school grounds to explore the school’s rain gardens and natural growth areas.
- Custodian Dave Holbrook and the after-school student Otter Club measured the flow of all school faucets and confirmed that faucets are low-flow, allowing only a half-gallon of water to flow per minute.
- Low-flow aerators were installed on all sinks; toilets and urinals were water-efficient.
- A fifth-grade student calculated pervious versus impervious surfaces on school grounds and presented the results to the fifth-grade classroom.
- Twenty-nine percent of the asphalt on school grounds was water permeable, which allows rainwater to be absorbed into the ground, rather than run into a storm drain.
- The irrigation system adjusted watering time based on weather conditions.
- Third-grade classrooms received the City of Sammamish Healthy Watershed, Healthy World classroom workshops on storm water pollution prevention.



Sustaining Green School Recognition

To be recognized as a Sustaining Green School, Creekside Elementary sustained its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school achieved this each year is detailed below.

Sustaining Green School 2014-15

- The school started a regular campus litter patrol. Primary students and teacher assistants tracked the amount of litter collected each week and used PA announcements to broadcast results, including how much litter was collected.
- In 2015 the school participated in the district-wide waste free Lunch Challenge.
- The school maintained a garden structure of products made from recyclable materials to grow edible plants and flowers.

Sustaining Green School 2015-16

- Student Council members created posters to share the results of a January 2016 cafeteria waste audit completed by the district. The audit found little to no contamination in recycling bins and learned that almost every recyclable item in the school cafeteria was correctly placed in recycling bins.
- The school used announcements, emails to employees, and teacher web pages to promote weekly waste-free Wednesdays in the cafeteria.
- The Green Team created Good on One Side paper reuse boxes for classrooms.



Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- Creekside Elementary replaced disposable utensils with durable utensils in the school cafeteria.
- The school began collecting paper towels from restrooms to be transported to a regional composting facility instead of landfilled.



Paper towel collection for transport to a regional composting facility

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- In classrooms and restrooms, the school continued collecting paper towels for composting. Yellow bins were placed next to garbage and recycling bins schoolwide along with signs to inform students what materials to place in the yellow composting containers.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- In April 2019, to celebrate Earth Week, the school created a pledge wall for students to display their pledges on how they will go green at school.
- The school continued to promote expectations of Green School practices and a culture of sustainability.



Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- In fall 2019, the Student Council and Green Team started a monthly newsletter that teachers use in classrooms. The newsletter included ways to include waste reduction, energy conservation, and water conservation practices at school and home.
- First-grade students learned about water and energy use at home and explored how to use classroom materials such as pencils, crayons, glues, etc. until they were completely used up.
- Students learned about climate change and climate simulations from [the NASA Kids website](#).
- The school continued to promote its no-idling policy for vehicles, including school buses.

Awards



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In 2012, Creekside won the state Green Leader School award for Pillar 1 (environmental impact, including waste reduction, recycling, water conservation and energy efficiency).
- Creekside received the Terry Husseman 2011 Sustainable School Award which the school used to sustain its Waste Watchers program.
- Custodian Dave Holbrook received a King County Earth Heroes at School award in April 2011.