



Park Orchard Elementary School

School District: Kent

School Location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: November 2016

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2018

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Park Orchard Elementary School formed a Green Team of eight students led by head custodian Matt Roark.
- Recycling bins with recycling signs were placed next to all garbage bins.
- The school achieved a 51 percent recycling rate and increased its recycling rate to 67 percent in 2018-19.
- Mr. Roark conducted a kitchen food waste audit to learn which materials were routinely thrown out instead of recycled or composted.
- To help reduce food waste, students set up a share table during breakfast for unwanted, unopened packaged foods and drinks from the school lunch program. Other students who wanted more then helped themselves to items on the share table.
- The Green Team shared its successes and efforts through morning announcements and monthly e-newsletters.
- In 2018-19, the school
 - set up buckets for students and staff members to collect used Crayola markers to send to Crayola to be recycled.
 - started recycling in the lunchroom and the Green Team received training on how to properly sort items.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- encouraged students to practice waste reduction at home and reminded teachers to continue to educate their students about waste reduction.
- shared waste reduction facts and tips with parents.
- The Green Team shared reminders about how to properly sort items in the lunchroom.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school posted signs on light switches to encourage students and staff members to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces.
- The custodian turned on heating 90 minutes prior to the start of the school day instead of two hours ahead as had been done in the past.
- To conserve electricity, multiple classrooms used natural light throughout the year when available.
- Each classroom had a student monitor to make sure the lights were turned off when they left a room.
- The school used regular announcements to inform and remind students and staff members about ways to conserve energy.