



Rainier Middle School

School District: Auburn School District

School Location: Auburn

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: January 2016

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2017

Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in February 2018

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Rainier Middle School achieved a recycling rate of 72 percent.
- Administrators in the lunch room made announcements to teach that recycling is important at Rainier.
- Green Team students made bi-weekly announcements and created 20 posters about waste reduction and recycling.
- Students worked to revitalize and maintain the school garden.
- Cleanliness in the school's hallways and lunch room improved each week as recycling and proper sorting were promoted.
- Waste free lunches were promoted via announcements and the establishment of a "share table" – a table where students may place unopened, packaged items from the school lunch program that they did not want so that other students could claim them.
- Rainier Middle School made an effort to reduce paper use by limiting paper handouts in class, making double-sided copies, and using email instead of paper copies whenever possible.



Rainier students work to bring the garden back to life.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- A new share container for unopened, packaged foods was placed in a common area accessible to students.
- Students were informed about what materials can be composted and the school arranged for collection of food scraps and other compostable materials.
- Students learned about plastics and how to reduce overall waste.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- Green Team students shared an energy conservation fact or tip twice each month.
- Science Links classes studied energy use and created posters about energy conservation to hang around the school.
- In October of 2017, science class students calculated their carbon footprints and learned how to reduce their impact on the environment.
- To reduce the school's energy consumption, timers were installed on vending machine lights.
- Custodians helped conserve energy by closing exterior doors, windows, and blinds, and switching off lights and electronic equipment when not in use.

For more information about this school's participation in the King County Green Schools Program, contact:

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