



Shorewood Elementary School

School district: Highline

School location: Burien

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2010

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

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

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

Sustaining Green School 2018-19: Achieved in May 2019

Sustaining Green School 2019-20: Achieved in June 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Shorewood increased its recycling rate from 57 percent to 68 percent.
- The school recycled fifteen 32-gallon bags of milk cartons each week.
- Labeled recycling bins were placed in classrooms, work areas, and food areas. Students from each class monitored classroom recycling bins and emptied them at the end of the day. Custodians helped monitor lunchroom recycling bins.
- Student groups periodically collected data on recycling and garbage in the lunchroom and reported their findings to the student body.
- Through posters and video skits, student groups informed the student body about reducing waste and how to recycle.
- Students who eat school lunch were encouraged to take only what they can eat from the salad bar. Parent bulletins included ideas for packing waste-free lunches.
- Straw use was greatly reduced in the lunchroom.
- The staff Green Team created monthly goals to reduce waste and improve recycling. Goals were communicated to through emails and announcements.



- Staff members received regular updates via email and at meetings about recycling and other school conservation practices.
- Office staff members sent the majority of parent newsletters by email.
- Teachers shared ideas for how they can use less paper, including increasing margins on documents, making double-sided copies, and condensing homework packets.
- Paper reuse boxes were set up in classrooms and work rooms for scratch paper. Students use this paper for drawing, informal assessments, and non-graded assignments.
- Shorewood participated in the King County “Bag your Bags, Bring ‘em Back” plastic bag recycling drive, and received a bench made of recycled plastic.
- Teacher Andrea O’Ferrall and librarian Sarah Gasamis shared tips about waste reduction and recycling in the January and April 2017 staff bulletins.
- Shorewood scheduled King County’s Going Green Together Assembly in November 2017 to help students learn about waste reduction, recycling, and conservation practices. Teachers scheduled King County classroom workshops that engaged students in conversations about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and protection of animal habitat.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school decreased electricity uses by 22 percent and gas by 25 percent.
- Checklists were provided for all classrooms to remind staff and students what to turn off and close each night. Checklists were posted by the door and included tips such as turning off computers and closing blinds at the end of each day.
- As a result of discussions during staff meetings, less overhead lighting and more natural light was used, and computer monitors were turned off when not in use.
- Through internet research and class discussion, some classrooms learned about ways to reduce energy use.
- Students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Students monitored outside doors to make sure they were not left open during or after recess.



- To reduce energy use, the school district set thermostats and hallway lights to turn on an hour before students arrive and turn off when they leave.
- At monthly meetings, staff were reminded of the school's energy conservation practices. Teachers were encouraged to regularly inform students about energy conservation practices, such as turning off the lights when leaving the classroom.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation and pollution prevention facts and tips were shared with students via school announcements from April through June 2017.
- Staff were reminded of Shorewood's water conservation practices on a monthly basis at all staff meetings.
- April through June 2017, librarian Sarah Gasamis worked with fourth-grade students to organize a campaign to encourage students to use reusable bottles instead of single-use plastic water bottles. Students shared the Story of Bottled Water video in multiple classrooms and made regular school announcements.
- In spring 2017, second-grade students learned about water sources around the world, and made connections between climate change and water conservation.
- Teachers in the fourth and sixth grade incorporated a drinking water and watershed study into their curriculum during fall of 2017.
- Fifth-grade students used Brightwater water quality kits and educational resources in their classroom curriculum during fall of 2017. The students then used the testing kits to test a local body of water for contaminants and created a display about their findings which was exhibited in the fifth grade hallway.
- King County Green Schools Program supplied water conservation signs in 2017 and sixth-grade students made signs to promote water conservation.

Sustaining Green School Recognition

Shorewood 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 2018-19

- The school collected old markers and crayons for Crayola's ColorCycle program.
- At the beginning of the school year, teachers and the custodian monitored lunch waste stations and demonstrated how to sort lunch waste correctly.
- The lunchroom used reusable trays.
- Signs were displayed throughout the school to remind staff members and students how to sort waste correctly in the lunchroom and classrooms.
- Students were regularly reminded via announcements and signs to leave unopened packaged foods and whole fruits from the school lunch program on the share table for other students to take.
- Signs were displayed near light switches to encourage students and staff members to turn off lights when leaving a room.
- PTSA created a Healthy Holidays calendar with suggestions for healthy activities such as planting trees to protect and preserve nature.
- To help reduce stormwater pollution, maintenance staff members planted a native plant rain garden near the school parking lot.
- Third-grade students wrote opinion papers on the pros and cons of banning plastic straws. The papers were written in conjunction with ongoing discussions about environmental problems caused by disposable plastics.
- Sixth-grade students who attended Waskowitz Outdoor School learned about water resources and the importance of conservation and pollution prevention.
- Mrs. Gasamis introduced G.O.O.S (good on one side) paper boxes in each classroom and demonstrated how to use them to reduce paper waste.
- Mrs. O'Farrell and Mrs. Gasamis started a Waste-Free Lunch campaign and students in the theater club performed a skit during an all-school assembly about how to pack a waste-free lunch.



Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- In Fall 2019, third-grade students wrote letters to the district superintendent and the head of nutrition services to share their research on the benefits of using reusable utensils. They emphasized the positive impact of reusables on preventing ocean plastic pollution.
- In October 2019, the school participated in an after-school event to coincide with the national Climate Strike. Teachers and students hosted an educational booth to share information about climate change and how the school community can reduce its impact on the climate. Third-grade students created posters and signs to share facts about climate change during the event. Participants pledged to protect the environment by reducing waste, conserving energy and water, and choosing sustainable transportation options.
- In January 2020, the school hosted a polystyrene recycling collection event, and advertised it via all-school announcements and Peachjar. Polystyrene collected during the event was delivered to StyroRecycle in Kent to be recycled.

Comment

“We are very proud of the efforts from students and staff to reduce our garbage and increase our recycling. It has truly been a team effort! We look forward to continuing our work with King County Green Schools to reduce our waste and share our knowledge with our community.” – Erin Spencer, teacher