



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

Skyview Middle School *(formerly called Skyview Junior High)*

School District: Northshore

Location: Bothell

Began to participate in the Green Schools Program: 2007

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

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in June 2010

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

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Skyview achieved a recycling rate of 65 percent.
- The school placed recycling bins in every classroom, office, break room, and common area along with recycling signs above every container.
- During 2011, the school began recycling and collecting food scraps and compostable materials from its lunchroom and kitchen.
- Teacher Tom Nowak organized a team of students and staff to initiate the composting collection program. Polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) was eliminated and compostable serving ware was used in the lunchroom.
- Students and parents helped to monitor the school's waste and recycling volumes.



Dumpster divers!
Skyview Junior High School students check fullness of recycling container to calculate recycling rate



Students restore native habitat in Skyview's Outdoor Learning Center by removing invasive plants and planting native plants



- Daily announcements were made over the PA system about recycling and how to properly sort waste.
- Skyview maintained and expanded waste reduction practices, including the addition of durable lunch trays, two-sided printing and copying, using single-sided paper for scrap, and installation of bulk condiment dispensers in the lunchroom.
- The school used Eagle Eye skits, assembly activities, bulletins and staff meeting announcements to communicate conservation and waste reduction messages.
- At the start of the year, recycling practices were introduced to incoming seventh-grade students. During the welcome assembly, eighth and ninth grade students were reminded about conservation practices and the school's science classes regularly reiterated waste reduction and recycling strategies.
- Green Team members worked with staff to purchase recycled-content paper, refillable white board markers, and recyclable toner cartridges whenever cost-competitive.
- The school received credit from the district for its increased recycling rate and used the credit to help purchase recycled paper stock and expanded Outdoor Learning Center activities.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- In 2008, Skyview identified a point person for energy conservation activities and located baseline data for gas and electrical use.
- Energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs were installed throughout the school.
- "Turn off Lights" signs were placed near all classroom switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- In 2010, Skyview, in conjunction with Northshore Capital Projects and the district's consultant McKinstry, submitted a proposal and was granted a \$46,000 school solar array, data tracking system, and alternative energy curriculum from Snohomish PUD's Planet Power Program.
- In 2012, a transportation survey revealed that 79.75 percent of Skyview's students walk, bike, bus, or carpool to school. This data was used to kick off a campaign to promote walking, biking, busing and carpooling.



Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- In 2011-12, Skyview Green Team focused on water conservation and pollution, turning the Green Team into a Bothell Blue Team for half the school year to address issues in this area.
- A “Puget Sound Starts Here” poster campaign was held to build awareness of the need to keep the local environment clean in order to sustain Puget Sound.
- The Blue Team monitored water quality in the school’s nearby wetlands periodically and reported the results to the World Water Monitoring Network.
- The school’s constructed wetlands were expanded to retain more water, to include 50 yards of permeable trails, and to be re-vegetated with native plants.
- Skyview science staff members created a Water Resources, Water Quality, and Salmon unit which all 300 seventh-grade students completed in 2011-12.
- All students researched and learned about the world’s water crisis and made recommendations to address those issues.
- Student Blue Team members measured the water flow from all faucets throughout the school and posted notices about water conservation near all sinks.
- John Schmied, the school’s former chemical hygiene officer and leader of the Green Team, assisted district staff to eliminate or minimize hazards from cleaning supplies, science lab chemicals, art and tech supplies, and other toxins. This included a clean-out of art/technology/science waste in all 10 of the district’s secondary schools.
- Skyview participated in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County pilot Business Hazardous Waste Disposal Program in 2008-09.
- Indoor air quality resources were located and initial goals developed.

Environmental Education

- In 2009, seventh-grade curriculum included assignments to hold family meetings to complete EPA’s carbon and water footprint surveys and an Earth Day Family Sustainability Action plan.



- Skyview expanded its Outdoor Environmental Learning Center to provide students with hands-on experience in trail maintenance and restoration of native habitat, including designing and digging wetlands, removing invasive plants, and planting native plants.
- In 2008-09 and 2009-10, Skyview students and parents performed over 900 hours of community service, including native planting and caring for the school's Outdoor Learning Center. Skyview parents and the Eastside Garden Club donated over \$1,600 for this project.
- Skyview teachers developed “grounding” curriculum activities to engage seventh-grade students in learning about the respective paths taken by garbage, recyclable materials, yard waste, drinking/surface water and wastewater, natural gas and electricity in their homes.
- In 2011-12, Skyview created the following Eco-Schools mission statement
Declaration of Green Dependence: We the students/staff of SJH resolve to
 - R = Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle to lower our footprint
 - E = Conserve Energy
 - S = Sustain our school grounds
 - P = Protect our watershed
 - E = be Environmentally conscious
 - C = Compost properly
 - T = Transport by bus and carpool

Sustaining Green School recognition

Skyview 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 accomplished this in each school year is detailed below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

- The school completed maintenance of a trail to keep erosion in check and the trails in shape for student use.



- The school constructed an outdoor classroom in 2016-17.
- Conservation successes were shared with the school and community via social media and through an end of year recognition assembly.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

- Green Team members worked to increase understanding of the importance of composting and recycling by monitoring waste stations and recording problem areas. Based on the results, students helped to design messaging, training, and announcements to correct sorting errors.
- The school used an indoor worm bin in which “worm water” was added to plants to naturally provide nutrients to soil.
- The Green Team created and posted informational signs above all waste stations to educate students and staff members about what goes in each bin.
- Students maintained a compost bin for paper towels and food waste in every classroom, and those compostable items were sent to a regional composting facility.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- With ongoing construction on its campus, the school continued to encourage everyone to waste as little as possible.
- The school focused on environmental efforts in students’ homes and encouraged sixth- and seventh-grade students to explore their families’ sustainability efforts.
- Sixth-grade students studied human population growth and impacts that has on the environment. They explored efforts to minimize human impact and what must be done in the future to support the growing population.
- Seventh-grade students participated in Environmental Sustainability projects where they examined everyday life choices to conserve water, reduce the carbon footprint of each person, and restore habitat. They quantitatively analyzed their impacts before and after each change to see the impact of their actions on the environment.
- Green Team members assisted custodians to empty indoor recycling and compost bins. They sorted and dumped the materials into the school’s outdoor containers.



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Awards

- In March 2013, Skyview received the U.S. Green Ribbon School award for reducing environmental impacts, including waste reduction, energy and water conservation, for excellence in health and wellness programs for students and staff, and for excellent environmental and sustainability education.
- Tom Nowak, teacher, received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2012.
- In March 2012, Skyview was named a Washington State Green Leader School for its Pillar 3 (Environmental and Sustainability education) programs.
- In January 2012, Skyview was the first school in Washington State to achieve the Northwest Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools Silver Award.
- Skyview's Sustainability Team received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2009.
- John Schmied, former teacher, received a King County Earth Hero at School award in April 2007.