



## St. Bernadette Parish School

**School district:** Private

**School location:** Burien

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:**  
November 2012

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:**  
Achieved in May 2014

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2016

**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



Student Green Team Good on One Side (G.O.O.S.) boxes for classroom paper reuse.

### Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a recycling rate of 67 percent.
- A recycling bin with signage was placed next to each garbage container in every classroom and office space.
- Lunchtime milk carton recycling was promoted through morning announcements. After starting milk carton recycling, total monthly recycling volume increased from 9.45 cubic yards to 16.8 cubic yards.
- Sixth-grade students were responsible for emptying recycle bins each day.
- Students created and placed posters above recycle bins to promote waste reduction and recycling practices.
- St. Bernadette Parish School replaced disposable trays with durable trays and started using durable utensils at lunch.



Students shared art made from used plastic wrappers to raise awareness about ocean plastic pollution.



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# Success Story

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- In winter 2013, a Green Team comprised of eight students in grades K-8 created posters that showcased how to be green for the holidays.
- Green Team students created G.O.O.S. (Good on One Side) boxes for classrooms to collect paper used on one side, allowing students and staff to reduce waste by using paper more efficiently.
- Green Team successes, events, and tips were shared through the school's website and the Wednesday Note, the weekly parent newsletter.
- The school received the King County assembly and classroom workshops to educate students and staff members about waste reduction, recycling, and habitat stewardship.
- Principal Carol Mendoza issued a paper use report three times each year and discussed individual paper use with each teacher.
- The school participated in grass-cycling on its lawn and athletic fields.
- The Parent Club organized cell phone recycling events to encourage proper recycling of electronic equipment.
- In 2015-16, to strengthen education about recycling, students created and posted three-dimensional signs with actual recyclable materials.
- Teachers modeled waste reduction and recycling practices at the beginning of each school year.
- Staff members received an email at the beginning of each new school year as a reminder of schoolwide recycling and waste reduction practices.
- New signs from King County Green Schools Program on how to sort recyclable materials replaced old versions.

## **Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- Signs encouraging students and staff members to turn off lights and electronics when not in use were posted throughout the school.
- Staff members and students were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather so that they would be comfortable with the school's standard temperature settings.
- The school shared energy conservation tips in the school's family newsletter.
- Seattle City Light presented its Shrinking Bigfoot energy conservation classroom lesson to students.



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- After-school activities were consolidated into specific areas of the school to conserve energy in unused spaces.
- In fall 2016, energy and water conservation tips were added to monthly parent and teacher newsletters to increase awareness about conservation practices.
- In fall 2017, Green Team members reminded school employees to not tamper with classroom thermostats.
- The Green Team created posters to remind students and employees to turn off computers when not in use.
- In 2017, St. Bernadette Parish School received a grant to update all school lighting fixtures to increase energy efficiency.

## **Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)**

- A water conservation and pollution prevention "Tip of the Month" written by Green Team students and employees was shared in the monthly parent newsletter and school bulletin.
- In collaboration with Puget Sound Partnership, the school added "Puget Sound Starts Here" plaques to all storm drains on school grounds
- The Green Team created and posted water conservation pledges.
- In spring 2017, St. Bernadette Parish students took a field trip to a local watershed and explored the path that storm water takes from their school to Puget Sound. Students learned about storm water pollution and how to prevent it at home and school.
- Throughout the school year, teachers and employees demonstrated to students how to save water while soaping hands.
- To conserve water on school grounds, maintenance staff positioned sprinklers to water the lawn and not pavement.
- Drought tolerant plants were placed on school grounds. Sports fields were the only lawn covered areas on the school campus.



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## **Sustaining Green School recognition**

The school has been recognized as a Sustaining Green School for sustaining and building 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 practices each year is described below.

### **Sustaining Green School 2018-19**

- In fall 2018, Green Team students participated in a waste reduction and recycling training conducted by the King County Green Schools Program where students learned how to sort waste correctly, choose reusable alternatives, and pack a waste-free lunch.
- The school installed a water bottle refilling station to conserve water and reduce waste from disposable plastic bottles.
- During end of year holidays, the Green Team organized a used toy drive for children and families in need.
- Students conducted a waste audit to assess the volume and composition of school waste and to measure contamination rates by identifying commonly missorted items. Results were shared with the school during morning announcements.

### **Sustaining Green School 2019-20**

- Students participated in King County Green Schools assembly and classroom workshops to learn about waste reduction and recycling.
- Green Team students learned about ocean plastic pollution and [the Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) during a Green Team workshop provided by the King County Green Schools Program. Students created ocean animal art using plastic wrappers and packaging.
- A student art project connected students to their classroom curriculum focused on habitats, ecosystems, and animal species. Students displayed their artwork in the school's main hallway and posted tips for using reusable products to reduce waste and prevent water pollution.



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- Green Team students hosted a used toy drive in which 150 used toys in good condition were donated to St. Vincent de Paul.
- In their curriculum, second- and third-grade students learned about water resources, the water cycle, and why water conservation is important..
- Green Team students learned about energy conservation and how they can conserve energy at home and school. Students shared what they learned in their classrooms and at home.
- In April 2020, at a Green Team Zoom meeting to celebrate Earth Day, teacher Hayley Bazinet shared actions students can take to protect the earth. Principal Eve Ruis used the school's Weekly Wednesday digital announcements to share with the school community Earth Day tips for reducing waste, conserving energy and water, and protecting habitats.