



Sylvester Middle School

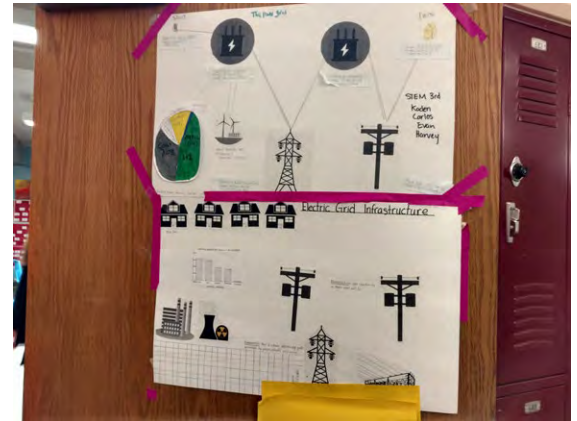
School District: Highline

School Location: Burien

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2016

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

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



Students learn about energy infrastructure, sources of energy, and energy conservation in the CTE Sustainable Cities course

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Sylvester Middle School increased its recycling rate to 55 percent by May 2019.
- Staff members and parent volunteers collaborated to form a student Green Team which included members of ASB and Student Leadership classes.
- In fall of 2016 the Green Team initiated a project to collect compostable materials in the lunchroom. With assistance and support from custodian Earious Butler, students, staff members and parents monitored waste stations to help students properly sort garbage and recyclable and compostable materials.
- Student Leadership and ASB members regularly promoted waste reduction, recycling, and composting via PA announcements.
- Student and parent volunteers created signs to display above lunchroom waste stations to help students understand proper sorting practices. Additional waste reduction and recycling signs were posted throughout the school to increase student awareness.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In fall 2018, to reduce paper use, Sylvester Middle School
 - Implemented a school-wide printing policy and used Peachjar to share electronic flyers and newsletters. Several staff members began using Google Classroom to create electronic copies of assignments.
 - Used iPads to check school visitors in and out.
- During fall 2018, students participated in a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) class projects:
 - The students ensured all classrooms and office spaces had recycling bins and signs, and they surveyed the recycling bins for contamination.
 - They audited the school's waste management practices, measured the volume of waste collected in one week, and examined the composition of waste.
 - They created a presentation about the collected information and shared strategies with their classmates about recycling right and reducing waste.
- In 2018-19, to reduce waste in the lunchroom, the school
 - Used durable trays.
 - Used a sandwich board to display signs with examples of common garbage, recyclable, and compostable items.
 - Encouraged proper sorting as custodians and teachers helped monitor lunchroom waste stations.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- During fall 2018, students participated in a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes.
 - Students learned about energy conservation and alternative forms of energy, the mechanics of the electrical grid, and how to measure air quality indices in CTE Natural Resource and CTE Sustainable Cities classes.
 - Students calculated their personal energy use and carbon footprints.



Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- In CTE Sustainable Design class, students studied energy resilience, climate change, the need for more alternative and renewable forms of energy, and how technologies can help mitigate the impacts of climate change.
 - They designed energy grid models to demonstrate how to supply energy to a city using only renewable resources.
 - They learned about potential careers in green energy during a field trip to the Clean Energy Institute at the University of Washington.
- For Earth Day 2019, students built an edible plant garden and presented about the connections between food and climate change at an all-school assembly.
- Teacher Joanna Rodriguez created two advisory lessons - one on stewardship and the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and the other on human's role in climate change.
- Signs were posted on or near all light switches and equipment to remind students and staff members to conserve energy by turning off lights in unoccupied rooms and equipment when not in use.
- Computers were set to sleep mode or turned off at the end of each school day.
- Teachers encouraged students to dress appropriately for the weather.
- To conserve energy, classrooms used individual, adjustable thermostats and teachers kept the thermostats within a standard range.
- Custodial staff checked the building regularly to ensure windows and doors were closed to save energy.