

Tesla STEM High School

School District: Lake Washington School District

School Location: Redmond

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
October 2016

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

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



Students conduct waste audits to assess volume and composition of garbage, recycling, and compostable materials

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Tesla STEM High School achieved a recycling rate of 67 percent.
- The school Green Team grew from 10 students to about 100 students.
- The Green Team consistently made Facebook posts about waste reduction and recycling practices and made posters to promote conservation practices.
- Regular compost pick up was instituted and extra collection bins for compostable materials were added to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.
- The local radio station KNKX and the Huffington Post interviewed members of the school.
- Students created and hung 3-dimensional posters showing actual examples of recyclable materials.
- Tesla STEM invited Zero Waste Washington to give presentations on waste reduction and recycling.
- A group of about 30 students was trained to sort lunchroom waste. These students monitored waste stations, and taught other students about proper sorting.



Students present their Schools Under 2C initiative, which encourages schools to commit to meeting the carbon emission reduction goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement.



- The Green Team hosted a kick-off day in October for King County schools where students collaborated with each other to draft a sustainability plan, including waste reduction and recycling recommendations, for their schools.
- Tesla STEM conducted waste audits every week and weighed the waste in each bin daily. This helped the school understand the content and volume of its solid waste. Based on audit results, Green Team members presented to classrooms about proper waste sorting.
- The school collaborated with Redmond Morsbags to make and share reusable bags in classrooms.
- Several Green Team members talked to local businesses to assess support for a ban on plastic bags.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- “Turn off Lights” signs were posted near all classroom light switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- In 2017, the Green Team encouraged all classroom to sign and display an energy conservation pledge which included information about how to conserve energy and how energy conservation helps reduce the school’s carbon footprint.
- Energy conservation themes were included in Environmental Science classes. Students compared renewable energy sources and stakeholder perspectives about how best to reduce energy use.
- Tesla STEM students created the Schools Under 2C initiative which encourages schools to commit to meeting the carbon emission reduction goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The Green Team created a website for this initiative which includes energy reduction recommendations.
- In December 2017, the Green Team organized a schoolwide showing of 24 Hours of Climate Reality, a day-long video broadcast of conversations between political, science, and business leaders about climate change.
- Motion-activated lights were used in all classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways and teachers used daylight in classrooms whenever possible.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Environmental Engineering students studied climate change issues and completed a project to design a sustainable city with a growing population while reducing energy use and carbon emissions.
- All school computer equipment was set to shut down automatically at the end of each day, and vending machines were installed with timers to turn off at night.
- Students encouraged staff members to comply with the “no personal appliances” policy in classrooms to help save energy.
- During summer, food was consolidated in as few refrigerators as possible and any unnecessary refrigeration units were shut down.
- Administration encouraged students and staff to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust the thermostat.

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

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