



Waskowitz Outdoor School

School district: Highline

School location: North Bend

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: September 2015

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2016

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

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

Sustaining Green School 2019-20: Achieved in June 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Waskowitz Outdoor School maintained a 50 percent recycling rate.
- Program orientations for each new group of student campers started with a lunch by the river where staff taught students how to sort their recyclable and compostable materials.
- Meals were served family style with reusable plates, silverware, and cups.
- All food scraps were composted in an on-site Earth Tub, and grass clippings were left on the lawn to biodegrade.
- Waste reduction and recycling goals were shared at monthly staff meetings.
- A recycling superhero visited each user group as part of 11 superheroes focusing on conservation and group education.
- Waskowitz students enjoyed skits about waste reduction performed by staff members. Littlefoot taught students about reducing their ecological footprint and Trashbuster focused on the “4 R’s” – rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Staff members limited paper use by eliminating junk mail, printing only when needed, and using both sides of paper.

- During the 2018-19 school year, the school redesigned and updated its environmental curriculum and shared current waste reduction information and techniques.
- In its new student group orientations, the school included information on how to reduce waste and conserve energy.
- The school displayed its Green Schools banner in the cafeteria.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- “Turn off lights” signs were posted near all switches to remind students and staff to turn off lights when leaving rooms.
- Students formed an Energy Conservation Patrol that ensured all lights and equipment were turned off at the end of each day.
- Waskowitz Outdoor students calculate their carbon footprints weekly as part of the school’s curriculum.
- Climate change and resource conservation issues were incorporated into classroom lessons.
- Classrooms used daylight rather than electric lights whenever possible.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the season rather than adjust the thermostat.
- All incandescent lights were replaced with fluorescent or LED bulbs.
- Teachers ensured windows and doors were closed while heating/closing was on.

Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Staff members regularly received information about how to conserve water. New campers received announcements about how to conserve resources and participated in introductory activities about the school’s water conservation goals.
- The school included information about climate change, water conservation, and other conservation practices into many school activities and lessons.
- Elementary and high school students tested multiple water sources on site.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- Signs were posted and tips were shared with campers about not placing trash in the toilets.
- The school displayed water conservation signs over all student and staff sinks. The school purchased high-efficiency and low flow toilets and faucets when replacements were needed.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Waskowitz 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 did this is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Waskowitz began using Google classroom and most school documents were shifted to Google Forms, significantly reducing the amount of printing in the main office starting in September 2019.
- Students visited Cedar River Watershed to learn about water sources and how water is a valuable shared resource.
- Students participated in lessons about climate change, energy, and water use. The lessons included practicing the actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprints at home and school.