



Success Story: Illahee Middle School

School Location: Federal Way, Washington

School District: Federal Way

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Total garbage volume was reduced by 59 percent, totaling 700 cubic yards per year.
 - Before the program, 120 cubic yards of garbage were generated monthly.
 - After plastic bottle/aluminum can recycling was started and classroom recycling was boosted, 50 cubic yards of garbage were generated monthly.
- The district saved \$500/month, or \$5,000 per school year, through waste reduction and recycling efforts.

The school's recycling champion, teacher Maggie Palm, involved students by:

- Asking them to calculate the school's recycling rate.
- Signing up for two King County classroom workshops.
- Asking students to conduct research about landfills and how waste reduction and recycling can reduce garbage.
- Inviting a King County Green Schools Program representative to make a classroom presentation.

Palm led the students in a variety of outreach activities, including:

- Monitoring recycling containers during the first few weeks of the program.
- Holding a "Recycle Week."
- Making a presentation in each classroom regarding what can and cannot be recycled at school, and making a presentation about waste reduction and recycling at an all-school assembly.
- Placing stickers, provided by King County, listing what can and can't be recycled at school on each recycling container.

- Working with custodians to arrange for collection of recyclable materials from the new recycling containers, which were provided by King County.
- Setting up a lunch booth with a King County Green Schools Program representative. The booth was visited by 451 students.
- Performing lunchtime skits to show what can and cannot be recycled at school.
- Making morning announcements about recycling.
- Creating posters about recycling.
- Presenting to all fifth-grade students at Enterprise Elementary, Sherwood Forest Elementary and Panther Lake Elementary, the elementary schools that send graduating students to Illahee Junior High School.

Award

Maggie Palm won a King County Earth Heroes award in 2006 for her strong leadership and outstanding accomplishments at Illahee Middle School.