



## **Northwood Elementary School**

**School District:** Mercer Island School District

**School Location:** Mercer Island

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** August 2016

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

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

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2018

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Northwood Elementary School maintained a recycling rate of 42 percent.
- As part of the school's start of the year kick off, the administration put together a grade level competition to see who could waste the least amount of food and keep the cafeteria the cleanest during their lunch time. Rankings were posted and successes were celebrated regularly.
- Green Team members were trained in the proper sorting of recyclable materials.
- Waste-free lunches were promoted and a "share table" was set up in the cafeteria where students could place unwanted or unopened foods for others to take.
- Green Team students made posters about how waste reduction and recycling can benefit local communities.
- Durable trays and utensils were used in the cafeteria to reduce waste.
- To reduce paper use, the number of classroom handouts was limited, teacher websites were used to post assignments, and double-sided copies were made as much as possible.
- The Green Team made regular weekly announcements about practicing the 4R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink).



## Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team made monthly announcements to share energy conservation tips and facts as well as data on the school's energy use.
- Signs were posted near all equipment reminding students and staff members to turn off computers and other equipment when not in use.
- To educate and encourage energy conservation practices, students signed an energy conservation pledge.
- Northwood Elementary became an EPA Energy Star certified school.
- Teachers ensured lights were turned off in unoccupied spaces and used daylight instead of electric lights whenever possible.
- Northwood encouraged all staff members to limit use of personal appliances in offices and classrooms.
- All light fixtures used fluorescent or LED bulbs.
- Northwood regularly encouraged students and staff to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjust thermostats.
- Teachers ensured that windows and doors were closed during and after school to keep heat in and limit the use of the thermostat.

## Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention (Level Three)

- Water conservation tips and information about the school's water use were shared in the school's newsletter.
- Green Team members posted water conservation signs near all bathroom and classroom sinks to encourage students to turn off the water when not in use.
- Northwood organized a pledge campaign for students and staff members about litter reduction and how to keep storm drains clear of litter.
- Teachers incorporated into curriculum information and discussions about water use and sources in different parts of the world.
- Northwood collected rain water and used a water-saving irrigation system to irrigate school grounds and gardens.



King County Green Schools Program

# *Success Story*

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

---

- The Green Team made monthly announcements to educate students about the school rain gardens and how they can help keep water clean.
- Students were encouraged to report dripping or leaking faucets to school custodians.
- Water efficient fixtures were selected and installed.

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

Ashley Tyler, teacher  
[ashley.tyler@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:ashley.tyler@mercerislandschools.org)

Tony Ham, head custodian  
[tony.ham@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:tony.ham@mercerislandschools.org)