

King County Green Schools Program



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Mission

To provide King County students, schools, and districts with tools and support to

- Begin and improve waste reduction, recycling, and other conservation practices.
- Involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship.
- Operate environmentally efficient and responsible facilities.

Program benefits

Assistance	Guidance and hands-on help tailored to each district and school.
Resources	Indoor recycling and organics bins, signs, information, and more.
Student learning and leadership	Students learn about resource conservation and develop leadership skills as they take action in their schools, homes, and communities.
Cost savings	Conservation practices can save money.
Recognition	Participants receive recognition.

Program summary

- Eligible schools and school districts: K-12 school districts, and K-12 public, parochial, and private schools in King County outside the City of Seattle.
- Program participants may focus on any conservation area. To receive recognition, participants begin with waste reduction and recycling (Level One). Then, if desired, they can progress through other program levels. After completing actions in each level, participants receive recognition.
- The program provides **assistance** and **resources**.
 - Best Practices Guides, assessments, and other tools.
 - Guidance for school districts, schools, and student teams to learn about sustainable practices, make improvements, and meet program criteria to receive recognition at each program level.
 - Signs and indoor recycling and organics collection bins (up to \$250 for schools serving 40% or more free and reduced meals, and up to \$150 for other schools, although extra bins *may* be available for larger schools).

Steps to receiving help and recognition

- Step 1 Sign up:** See [Sign up for the Green Schools Program](#) for application forms.
- **Schools:** Fill out the **school** application, with the principal's knowledge. Include name and contact information of at least one staff member.
 - **Student groups:** When your school signs up to participate, guidance is available to your student Green Team or other student group focused on sustainability.
 - **Districts:** Fill out the **district** application form. Include names and contact information of two or more district staff members (such as facility manager, food services director, resource conservation manager, and similar positions).
- Step 2 Learn about and improve conservation practices** *with help from King County.*
To receive recognition, start with **Level One - Waste Reduction and Recycling.**
- Step 3 Celebrate and share successes!**

Recognition

The program recognizes districts, schools, and student teams each spring.

Each school receives a banner, web icon, and program website success story after completing Level One. When a school completes Level Two or Level Three criteria, the school receives a web icon and a sticker for its banner. Sustaining Green Schools receive a banner ribbon each school year they meet the criteria.

Each district receives a web icon and website success story after completing each program level.

Each student team receives an electronic certificate and social media icon after completing a project related to sustainability. See [Student Green Teams](#).

Level One Begin or improve waste reduction and recycling education and practices.

Level Two

1. Sustain Level One waste reduction and recycling practices.
2. Complete **energy conservation** actions.

Note: If desired, Level Three can be completed before Level Two.

Level Three

1. Sustain Level One waste reduction and recycling practices.
2. Complete **water conservation** actions.

Sustaining level

1. Sustain Level One, Level Two, and Level Three practices.
2. Complete an additional conservation action or educational strategy from the Level One, Two, or Three Best Practices Guide -- or any of these Green Schools Program Best Practices Guides: **Green Building; Healthy Schools; Litter Reduction; Transportation.**

Schools and districts that do not meet program level criteria are still eligible to receive help.

Contact: GreenSchools@cplusc.com

Website: www.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division