

# King County Green Schools Program



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# **King County Green Schools: Examples of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Trays**

- **Reduce**

Eliminate trays or reduce the number used

- **Reuse**

Use and wash durable trays

- **Recycle**

Purchase compostable trays and collect for composting



# **Reduce: Eliminate Trays**

## **Examples:**

- 1. Kent School District** elementary schools
  - Food delivered to classrooms and lunchrooms without trays
- 2. Federal Way Public Schools**
  - Reusable 5-compartment trays



# **Reduce: other school cafeteria products**

**Eliminate polystyrene bowls, plastic utensils, and straws**

## **Examples:**

- 1. Snoqualmie Elementary and Cascade View Elementary** – Eliminated polystyrene bowls. Conducted fundraisers to purchase durables. Kitchen staff washes.
- 2. Island Park Elementary and Cascade View** - Eliminated disposable utensils; purchased durable utensils. Kitchen staff washes.
- 3. Issaquah School District** – Eliminated straws in elementary schools: estimated 1 million straws per year eliminated.



# **Reduce: Decrease Use of Trays**

**Reduce number of trays used**



**Example:**



**Kent-Meridian High**

Reduced tray use by 25% after a campaign encouraging students to “only use a tray if necessary.”

Result: approximately 64,000 less trays used in one year

# Reuse: Durable Trays

## Examples:

1. Thoreau Elementary: student volunteers helped wash trays during a pilot.
2. Arrowhead Elementary: student volunteers collect durable trays.
3. Islander Middle School: GatorsGoGreen Club helped make the switch.



# Recycle (Compost) Trays

**Buy compostable trays and collect for composting**

- 1. Issaquah School District** – Polystyrene trays eliminated. Goal: collect compostable trays/other organics for composting from all schools.
- 2. Tahoma School District** – Some secondary schools: compostable trays are collected for composting. (Elementary schools: durable trays.)
- 3. Highline School District** – In 2010 switched from polystyrene to cardboard trays. Goal: collect for composting, if feasible.

