



Bellevue School District Green Genius Program Fact Sheet



Background Information:

- All Schools in the District have completed the King County Green Schools program. They were all certified at the top level in 2012.
- The Green Genius program was started in 2012 to ensure that schools maintain resource conservation results and build upon them.
- All schools in the District compost and recycle.

What is the Bellevue School District Green Genius Program?

- The Bellevue School District Green Genius Program was created through a City of Bellevue and Bellevue School District partnership to ensure all schools:
 - Form a green team of staff and/or students.
 - Continue recycling, composting, conserving energy, and water.
 - Annually educate students and staff about what is recyclable, what is compostable, and ways to reduce personal impact on energy and water use at school.
- The Green Genius Program is a list of goals that schools need to complete throughout the school year. Schools are given their goal sheet in October and need to have goals completed by April. Completed goal sheets need to be turned in to the City/District liaison, Sam Wilder, by April.
- The Principal is not required to be at all Green Genius team meetings, but does need to support team efforts and make sure a team is formed. The Principal needs to work with the team on outreach activities.

Other programs or materials available to assist with reaching Green Genius goals:

- Cafeteria Challenge: The City and District offer this fun challenge in the fall for schools to boost waste reduction, recycling, and composting in the cafeteria and to win prizes.
- Assemblies: The City provides assembly programs for elementary schools.
- Containers and Signs for recycling and composting: The City provides containers and signs (with photos) for recycling and composting.
- Presentations, working with environmental or student clubs, student monitor training, staff presentations, lunch presentations in cafeterias, eco films for environmental clubs
- City of Bellevue booths for Science Fairs

Who do I contact for assistance with reaching our school Green Genius goals?

- Sam Wilder, on behalf of the City of Bellevue, will meet with your school in October to help you with developing a plan. If you need assistance throughout the year, contact **Sam Wilder**, swilder@wilderenvironmental.com, cell/text: 206-949-1787.
- For Energy Conservation assistance, contact **Jeff Tweeten** tweetenj@bsd405.org. He will be able to assist with providing tips and data for you school dealing with energy conservation.



How to Form A Green Genius Team



Schools in Bellevue School District have been completing green goals every school year since 2003. The first goal of the “Green Genius” program is to form a “Green Genius Team.” Your team will lead your school in reaching simple but effective goals as outlined on the “Green Genius Goals” tracking form.

Schools recruit at least two staff members to be part of the team, as well as interested students, student groups, parents, and volunteers. Staff members can include teachers, principals, assistant principals, and custodians. Student teams may include: ASB, Leadership, Environmental club, Key Club, or for elementary schools- consider electing a class to lead efforts. Classes can even take turns (monthly, quarterly, semi annually). Here are tips to form a great team to keep your school green:

1. Recruit Members

Here are ways to recruit volunteers (staff, student, classes or student groups) for your Green Genius Team:

To recruit staff:

- Announce needs at a staff meeting
- Email all staff at your school
- Ask specific staff that seem interested in environmental issues or community service/projects

To recruit parents or volunteers:

- Place an article in the parent newsletter
- Make an announcement at PTSA meeting
- Post a blurb on the school website

To recruit students:

- Contact student group leaders
- For elementary schools: consider recruiting a class
- For secondary schools: offer community service hours for students that assist



2. Determine Time Availability for Members

It is recommended that your team meet at least monthly and pick a few goals for the year. Goals should include the 5 green genius goals. If it is difficult to have staff commit to this, consider breaking jobs into parts (for example: three month terms).

3. Set Goals and Track Activities

Encourage teams to set goals, write them down, and display them at the school. Throughout the year- update the poster or banner with goals to show what has been accomplished.

4. Reach Goals, Broadcast Success, and Celebrate!