

2012 Conservation Champions at Seattle Public Schools



In Spring 2012 we asked schools to nominate a person or group that was working to foster a culture of conservation at their school. We received many wonderful nominations from schools throughout the District and are excited to share those nominations with you here. We hope you will find them as inspiring as we did!

Conservation Champion Awards are part of a suite of three Utility Conservation Programs: Shared Savings Awards, Green Team Support, and Conservation Champion Awards. Together, these programs aim to encourage and support the work that schools are already doing to conserve energy, water, and waste.

More information can be found online at <http://bit.ly/sps-conservation>

<u>School</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Bryant Elementary	Katie Salisbury
Franz H. Coe Elementary	Mr. Moon
Denny International Middle School	Lisa Kelleher
Garfield High School	Jayn Foy
Bailey Gatzert Elementary School	Agents of Good Green Team
Green Lake Elementary	Tamar Schamhart
Greenwood Elementary	Deb Fitzpatrick & Elizabeth Maahs
Hamilton International Middle School	Bill Levin
Jane Addams K-8 School	Kim Vuu
John Stanford International School	Anne Parr
John Stanford International School	Barb Burrill
Lowell & McDonald at Lincoln Building	Joint Lowell-McDonald Green Team
Maple Elementary	Elyse Litvack
Olympic Hills Elementary	Olympic Hills Family Group
Roxhill Elementary	Carmela Dellino
TOPS K-8	Jessica Pugsley & Heather Wiens
View Ridge Elementary	View Ridge Green Team
Viewlands Elementary	Lily Farnham
West Seattle Elementary	Don Neal & Scott Anderson
Whittier Elementary	Rebecca Adamson

Compiled by Nicole Laky & Rina Fa'amoe, SPS Resource Conservation Specialists



Nominee(s): **Katie Salisbury**, teacher

School: **Bryant Elementary**

"Katie Salisbury has been working on getting a composting program going at Bryant for quite some time. She had already collaborated with other staff to create a Green Team and enhance the recycling program, and now she has managed to implement a new composting program. I know she has spent many extra hours beyond her teacher schedule to make all of this happen. Katie is a great collaborative team mate and is focused on helping our school, district, and city become more green."

Nominated by: Dan G.

Nominee(s): **Mr. Moon**, Custodial Engineer

School: **Franz H. Coe Elementary School**

"Mr. Moon has enthusiastically embraced our new lunchtime composting program that we started in October 2011. As a home gardener, Mr. Moon appreciates the importance of composting for gardeners and the need to reduce waste. He works with our student and parent compost volunteers to make sure that the stations are clean, safe, and well tended. He is currently monitoring our trash output to determine when we can downsize our dumpster in response to our successful composting efforts.

Tao Coleman, 3d grade, recently made the following observation about Mr. Moon, "He's nice, but I think he must be shy because he is so quite. He works very hard to keep our school clean."

Mr. Moon is an unsung hero at our school and an important community member. We deeply appreciate his stellar service and wish to honor him with the Conservation Champion Award."

Nominated by: The Coe Compost Committee (Stacy L., Marvic B., Sara F., Laura F.)

Nominee(s): **Lisa Kelleher**, teacher

School: **Denny International Middle School**

"Lisa Kelleher is very ambitious, knows how to motivate students in environmental endeavors, and as you will note, finds partners in the community to accomplish some of these achievements. Her efforts go far above teaching science, include the following:

1) Instituted lunch composting at Denny, coordinated with the opening of the new facility for the 2011/2012 school year, and making recycling easier, and a higher priority.

2) Runs a student green team once per week after school, involving students in:

- Leadership on composting
- Neighborhood clean up
- Restoration projects in community (one time a month)
- Bringing in speakers to talk about environment
- Completing the requirements and filling in application for as Washington green schools
- Turn off the lights campaign

3) Created a recycled art project in partnership with the Nature Consortium

4) Help students who were interested sign up for outdoor activities, to foster a love for the environment. One example is a rock climbing outing in partnership through the YMCA.”

Nominated by: Michelle G.

Nominee(s): **Jayn Foy**, parent

School: **Garfield High School**

“Jayn slowly started working with our composting program about three years ago. Then last year she basically became a full time compost volunteer. The program grew tremendously under her supervision. She recruited students, made posters and most importantly managed the volunteers composting at the end of lunch each day. She also worked very closely with the Earth Service Corps on their overall Green Schools Certification. Three things about her service stand out;

- 1) The sheer volume of time she put in. While not here every day, she is here most days. On many days she manages a large crew of students while on others, she is alone doing the whole composting operation for over an hour after lunch.
- 2) Jayn took the initiative last year to paint all our in class recycle cans. For some very odd reason SPS choose yellow as a color for recycling cans which has no connection to recycling. So, Jayn slowly with a few at a time took home these small cans and painted each recycle blue. In addition she slapped a nice sticker on each per recycling.
- 3) Finally, she has done an amazing job diversifying our recycling crew. While Earth Corps is about 95% white and girls, our composting crew each day is predominately minority students with a balance of boys and girls. She has done this by recruiting in the lunch room. Our lunch room is very diverse. She has an amazing personality and is very warm. Students realized they could trust this white woman asking them to dig in trash each day at lunch and have really responded to her leadership.

Nominated by: Richard T.

Nominee(s): **Agents of Good Green Team**

School: **Bailey Gatzert Elementary School**

“Through the "America Scores" program which takes place after school, 2x a week I mentor 16 3rd -5th grade girls. We work together to identify and find solutions for problems in our community. The girls have a special yearning to help nature and work in the area of conservation. We spend a lot of time outdoors writing poetry, gardening and picking up litter. The girls sort the litter and then they recycle what they can. One project they worked on earlier in the season was stenciling storm drains. They learned about what happens to water as it goes down the drains and they decided they wanted to help raise awareness. They also built birdhouses to attract more wildlife to our very urban schoolyard. Lately they have begun thinking about ways to figure to invite more of our community neighbors into the school garden. One woman "Salas" lives across the street and comes over regularly to help tend the school garden. The students are especially concerned with the many homeless people who live in the areas around school often sleeping on school grounds. They would like

to find a way to help them. Some girls suggested selling their books. I think they thought of that because they know how valuable knowledge is!!

The "Agents of Good" as they call themselves, are focusing now on a way to get the other classes that meet after school to recycle more effectively. One student Azariah says, "If you love nature, it's natural to want to help." Quiana says, "The earth is our Mother." Vina says, "I do! I love nature." I'll help. The girls made posters and hung them around school to draw attention to the vast amount of litter that blows around. The girls are studying where the litter comes from and how to help decrease it. They say, "We definitely don't want to put this on the train!" (the train that goes to Oregon every day with Seattle's garbage)"

Nominated by: Visala H.

Nominee(s): **Tamar Schamhart**, parent

School: **Green Lake Elementary School**

"Tamar started this program out of a labor of love a few years back. She is a parent volunteer and mother of two Green Lake students. She is in nursing school full time and still manages our compost program, taking time out of her busy schedule at the start of the year to train our intermediate students to educate our student body on composting (for most it's a refresher) and then how to dump the compost and provide new bags to the bins in each of the various lunch areas. Some of our classrooms serve as lunch areas, and the staff room and the lunchroom are just a few of the places the compost team needs to "service" each day. Without her work, we would not have a successful compost program with such great student involvement. We are so blessed to have her dedication and commitment to our school, our students, and the environment."

Nominated by: Angela B.

"I hit a wall this winter with our school's new composting program. I started asking friends at other schools if they had a parent green team leader who they thought might be able to give me some ideas. I got Tamar's name from 3 different moms. Greenlake Elementary is a small school, so for 3 people to respond with the same answer to my plea was my first clue that Tamar was worth tracking down!

Tamar graciously offered to meet with me, despite her many other commitments including being a full time nursing student. She has such a wealth of experience and gave me some great ideas. She really emphasized making it something easy for teachers to opt into and something that the kids were excited about. She gave me lots of ideas for engaging the kids better. My favorite is the "Top Banana" award which Greenlake has used for the class with the best composting/recycling sorting for that month. The kids get an award for their class and it is announced at an assembly or over the P.A.

Tamar helped me think about the challenges I was facing differently and helped me feel like I could turn things around. I have implemented some of her ideas at Lowell@Lincoln and things are definitely going more smoothly."

Nominated by: Kimberly C.

Nominee(s): **Deb Fitzpatrick**, parent & **Elizabeth Maas**, teacher
School: **Greenwood Elementary School**

“Deb contacted me after learning about CoolMom’s no-idling campaign and agreed to shepherd Greenwood Elementary through the process as our pilot project. I was so impressed with the dedication she showed to the project in concert with Ms. Maas. Between the two of them, they had children monitoring the drop-off and pick-up lines at Greenwood every morning and afternoon for two weeks. Deb got the word out to the parent community and was a voice to the BLT and the PTA. Beth worked with the students to put the idling-reduction into context and to help them understand the impact of what they were doing. Deb was even willing to help the janitor figure out where to place the signs and problem solve district rules/sign placement issues. Deb and Beth took the time to give us great feedback about what worked and what didn’t, and ideas for how to improve it next time. Our program is currently being implemented at other schools and is now available on the web, free-of-charge, thank to their willingness to test it for us. Additionally, they helped families at Greenwood reduce the percentage of cars idling from 75% to 44%.

During the process, I learned that Beth has engaged Greenwood on many conservation topics including lunchroom compost and recycling. When I needed some guidance on starting compost at my own child’s school, she graciously took the time to answer my questions and give me a tour of their lunchroom.

Beth and Deb are quite a pair of conservation champions!

Nominated by: Kimberly C.

Nominee(s): **Bill Levin**, teacher
School: **Hamilton International Middle School**

“Most students and staff are very aware of Bill Levin’s conservation contributions towards the school and global health. As Bill often says, “I should model what I believe is right or walk the talk.” It would be rare to hear Bill talk about what he’s done for the school, his actions speak louder than words.

What Bill’s students are saying:

He gives you ways to help the environment . . . instead of just telling us we can (Alice H.);

He told us about climate change, which I didn’t know about. He tells us what we can do and about what he’s already doing (Johnna M.);

He really opens our eyes to the real consequences of climate change. He also helps us to access our own damage on the environment and how to minimize it (Clara G.);

He makes his own gas (Jonathan L); he teaches us about stuff that other teachers don’t teach us (Iris Z.);

He encourages us to do eco-friendly things (Elizabeth F.);

He helps our whole school be more eco-friendly with his addition of solar panels, etc. (Eleanor G.);

He teaches us about the solar panels on our roof and how they help (Kendall B.);

He teaches you to recycle and compost instead of just garbage (Emily R.);

He teaches and encourages us to preserve the natural resources (Andrew T.);

He teaches us about which foods to eat that don’t hurt the environment (Zofia S.).”

Nominated by: Darrel T.

Nominee(s): **Kim Vuu**, Custodial Engineer
School: **Jane Addams K-8 School**

“Ms. Kim has been extremely supportive of our recycling and cafeteria sorting program. It is the little things that make the biggest impact. She tracks our BioBag inventory, cleans the grabber for the student sorters, empties the liquid waste and keeps the colander clean. The white lid to the recycling bin is always clean—both sides. If our student sorters do not take the compost out to the bin, she will and she will weigh it and complete our weighing table. The cafeteria bins are always placed in the same order, a small detail, but it is important for children who need to follow a routine. When our food waste scale malfunctioned, it was Ms. Kim who informed me of it. She even helps students properly sort our waste.

Along with all her duties, she maintains our indoor and outdoor planters. The planters are filled with lovely plants that fill the space, creating a green zone along the stairwells.

Without Ms. Kim’s attention to details, her sense of order, kindness, and willingness to support our efforts, Jane Addams would have to work twice as hard to accomplish our goals. We hope you consider Ms. Kim a Conservation Champion for conservation needs a whole team to move these efforts forward.”

Nominated by: Jane Addams and Christine B.

Nominee(s): **Anne Parr**, Kitchen Manager
School: **John Stanford International School**

“This is Anne’s first year in the JSIS kitchen, and what a treasure she is! Her smile and sense of humor lighten every situation and interaction with students, staff, and parents.

There are so many areas where Anne helps with the recycling and composting efforts at JSIS. Here are some examples:

As soon as she came on board at JSIS and learned we had reusable metal silverware instead of disposable “sporks,” Anne offered to wash the metal forks and spoons used at lunchroom meals. Officially this is the responsibility of the lunchroom recycling parent volunteers, but Anne does it, daily, with a smile.

She also washes the components of the JSIS Green Team Party Kits (washable plastic plates, cups, forks, and spoons in a handled bin) whenever the dirty dishes are delivered to the kitchen. She received written permission from her supervisor before taking on this new task. Making the Party Kits so easy to clean has helped spread the popularity of these Kits, so that ten JSIS teachers are using them now for classroom food-related events. No more disposable plates, cups, or plastic forks and spoons in those classrooms.

Anne collects non-meat and non-dairy food waste from the kitchen for feeding the residents of the JSIS worm bins. She consults on a daily basis with the lunchtime recycling parent coordinator and the worm bin manager about the current demand for worm food. Although we also compost food waste through Cedar Grove pickups, the “cream” of the JSIS food waste goes to making wonderful worm castings compost.

Anne uses reusable food trays as much as possible at breakfast and lunch and avoids using disposable items, even though they are compostable.

Anne also set up a water station with a pitcher and recyclable cups that is available during all student meals. This is the first time I have seen this done by a kitchen manager in my five years’ experience at JSIS. Many students drink this freely available water and will report to Anne immediately if the pitcher or cups are missing.

She is always coming up with ideas to help the lunchroom make more sense and be more fun for kids – with washable freestanding signs for the Peanut Free tables and Breakfast tables, plus fun lunchroom decorations for every season.

Anne is always willing to take part in new JSIS recycling initiatives such as collecting plastic caps. She learns quickly and then teaches JSIS students, staff, and parents in the established ways of recycling at school.

Anne has developed a humorous and friendly relationship with the JSIS day custodian so that he now smiles and laughs often when he's in or around her kitchen. Anne gets along with everyone and is such a pleasure to work with. She always has a smile for the students but is also firm with them when necessary.

I can't imagine that there is any other kitchen manager in all of the Seattle Public Schools who does as much as Anne does for JSIS."

Nominated by: Barb B. and Nani C.-P.

Anne is very supportive of the conservation efforts at the school and does more than her share to minimize waste and see that the program thrives. She conscientiously puts extra effort to separate food scraps especially useful to the vermiculture program. She also makes clean up of the food waste containers easier (doing most of it herself) which in turn makes it easier for the volunteers. Most importantly she "gets" conservation. I am sure that her job would be simpler if she didn't go out of her way to accommodate the program, but her cheerful support influences the program much more than many people would think. Just that little bit of lubrication from her positive, "I would be happy to do that for you" attitude makes a huge difference and keeps the "team" in "Green Team".

Lee Foote

JSIS worm bin manager

parent of 4th grade Green Team member

My name is Carter Raaen. I am in the fourth grade, and on the Green Team at JSIS. I set up the recycling containers in the cafeteria every morning. I use blue milk crates to make some containers higher so people can reach them. Often the milkman comes early and takes the milk crates before I get there. Anne saves two milk crates for me in the morning so that I can use them. She also says "hi" to me when I walk in the door. She is very nice.

Carter Raaen

JSIS Green Team member

Nominee(s): **Barb Burrill**, parent

School: **John Stanford International School**

"Barb is my hero. She is unstoppable! Barb has not only managed to create a first class sustainability program at JSIS, but has been willing to help others adopt sustainable practices. At JSIS she manages the lunchroom compost and recycling, compost and recycling at events, and compost in the classrooms. She works with the lead Green Team teacher to create classroom involvement that brings sustainability messages home, by doing things like helping students landscape with native plants, do compost presentations at other schools, hold community outreach events to teach the neighborhood about compost and recycling, etc. Barb collects, takes home and washes juice pouches from the lunchroom and offers after school classes for the kids to make them into upcycled creations which she then sells to raise money for the green team. She recently taught a group

from CoolMom how to do this, supplied us with the materials and turned us loose at SAM's Earth Day for Kids. She collects coffee bean bags, printer cartridges, shoes and countless other things at JSIS which she reuses, recycles or re-homes in the most sustainable way possible. She brings sustainability and accessible ways to practice it home to everyone she encounters. She even took at position as a Wallyhood blog writer so she could educate the neighborhood in waste reduction and lead us in reducing out waste for WM's neighborhood challenge (we came in 2nd). She also volunteers with City Fruit and volunteers to take for urban fruit trees. She is particularly devoted to the apple trees along the Burke Gilman trail.

As I have been working on starting a lunchroom program at Lowell at Lincoln, Barb has been willing to help and mentor me in any way possible. She is devoted to this cause, yet totally unassuming in her manner. She just gets done what needs to get done. I find Barb to be an inspiration!"

Nominated by: Kimberly C.

Nominee(s): **Joint Lowell-McDonald Green Team**

School: **Lowell and McDonald at Lincoln Building**

"Lowell at Lincoln staff: Anna Birinyi, Nathan Wheeler, Rina Geoghagan, Beth Lee, Kathy Shelton

Lowell at Lincoln parents: Mike Foster, Hien Brown, Teresa Canady, Christine Koester, Anita Shah, Jin Wang, Becky Anderson (and myself, Kimberly Christensen)

McDonald staff: Diane Eileen, Joelle Mertel, Jane Petrich

McDonald Parents: Bryon Wooters, Maris Sovold, Katie Dodsley, Amanda Patterson, Sandhya Subramanian

Joint staff: Joanne Sorensen (kitchen manager), Trang Ngyuen (custodian)

AMAZING kids at both schools

Starting a lunchroom compost and recycling program at a temporary site with two schools and 600 children sharing it was a really big undertaking. There has been support at every level. Our kitchen manager Joanne has been our eyes and ears on the job letting us know what is working and what is not. She is truly committed to the success of this program and has been so willing to work with us, the students and the challenges that have come up.

Our lead teachers have helped us with the student-end of things, making sure the students get training, support and incentives, and that they remember when it's their turn to compost. Our lead teachers (Wheeler, Birinyi, Eileen and Mertel) have really embraced the overlying mission of composting and are working on incorporating it into classroom life and finding ways that we might integrate our sustainability practices into curriculum, field trips, etc. They have also been strong advocates of the program among their peers and helped their peers embrace the program as well.

Ms. Geoghagan has been terrifically helpful, especially with working out the bigger picture stuff such identifying obstacles, ways to overcome them and how to make sustainability at way of life for our school. Her desire for this to succeed is obvious.

Our parent team has truly made the implementation of the program possible. Parents have trained the students, made signs, worked the line, washed the bins, gloves and aprons, given thoughtful and constructive ideas for how to fine tune things, and helped troubleshoot the many bumps we've had along the way. The implementation of the program really only worked because we had parents who were willing to be there every day to make sure it happened.

Our student green team is the other reason this program worked. Over 60 students have committed to helping our school compost and recycle. They have shown incredible maturity and responsibility, even missing out on recess to help us help the environment. They have taken part in all aspects of the program, from working the line, to taking out the compost, to training younger students about how to sort. They are superstars!"

Nominated by: Kimberly C.

Nominee(s): **Elyse Litvack**, teacher

School: **Maple Elementary School**

"Maple has been a Washington Green School (Level 2) for two years.

Elyse started in-building composting, as well as the on-going lunch composting. Outside of the bathrooms, students put their paper towels (from hand-drying), into a compost bin. In addition, this year Elyse started new worm bins.

From Elyse, Maple students have learned a lot about the importance of conservation. They know what they can do as individual citizens to make a difference; and that together, we can all help ensure that our environment is the healthiest it can be."

Nominated by: Lynn L.

"In the month of May, we celebrate Mother's Day for all the hard work that mothers have done. So, it is fitting that for this month, we get to nominate a conservation champion for the work they are doing for Mother Earth. At Maple Elementary School, staff and students participate in conservation efforts by using re-usable silverware to eat school lunch and discarding compostable items and other food wastes in compost bins. Imagine the number of students who consume school lunch and multiply that by the number of school days in a year. That is a lot of disposable utensils that get thrown away per year! For many years, Maple has used sporks (plastic utensils that combine the design and function of a spoon and fork) to eat school lunch, but now the whole school adopted the use of silverware in order to decrease the amount of disposable utensils that is being thrown away. As a result, students can really see their conservation efforts because their silverware gets to be washed and used over and over again.

Composting is also another important activity that Maple actively participates in. Throughout the day, especially during lunch time, Maple staff guide the students through the proper disposal of their food wastes. Seeing how much food goes into waste encourages students to take only the food that they're going to eat."

Nominated by: Linda N.

"Elyse started the compost, recycle program and Washington Green School 2 at Maple. She also helped the Kitchen to use "real" silverware moving away from plastic and filling the landfills. Ms. Litvack has all grade levels involved in teaching what is compostable, recycle and garbage and how to make Maple more "Green"."

Nominated by: Cathy S.

Nominee(s): **Olympic Hills Family Group (PTA)**
School: **Olympic Hills Elementary School**

“Our staff has tried to start a lunchtime composting program in the past but been unsuccessful because of the restriction that no students miss academic time to help with composting. Our family group stepped in and offered to monitor the composting program on a daily basis. Parents have made a schedule, provided substitutes and consistently show up to allow our program to exist and function smoothly. I would like to add that we are a school with over 70% of our students are on free/reduced lunch. Many of our families are immigrants working multiple jobs. We have a small but extremely active and dedicated family group that made this a priority. We are so grateful to them for their support.”

Nominated by: Debbie B.

Nominee(s): **Carmela Dellino**, Principal
School: **Roxhill Elementary School**

“Carmela is an advocate for conservation at Roxhill. She can be seen digging around in our compost bins in the cafeteria during lunch times and family nights sorting out garbage, recycle and compost into the proper container. She reminds parents at the beginning of the evening to make sure that they are mindful of cleaning up after themselves and to put their waste in the appropriate containers. Another reason why I think Carmela is a Conservation Champion is she held a competition between our three lunches. The competition consisted of students being responsible for cleaning up after themselves and disposing their waste into the proper places neatly and respectfully. Their reward was homemade cupcakes, baked and frosted by her! Clearly, she is a champion!”

Nominated by: Kristie S.

Nominee(s): **Jessica Pugsley & Heather Wiens**, students
School: **TOPS K-8**

“These 2 fifth grade teachers and their students run the composting program at our school and fifth grade students rotate volunteering their time at lunch as well as at other times sitting near the composting bins in the cafeteria and educating the other students (especially the younger ones) about composting-what from student lunches is trash; what is recyclable; and what is compostable. They are friendly and helpful and help to divert a sizable amount of compost and recyclables from being thrown in to the trash, as well as building their own skills as leaders, educators and role models in our school community. We are also in the process of growing a larger school program in composting and gardening that will involve lots of cross-grade opportunities for service, learning and keeping more recyclables and compostables out of the trash and being reused productively!

My first graders love seeing the fifth graders running the compost station at lunch, and have developed great relationships with many of them while also learning about what is trash, recycling and compostable. I appreciate the fifth grade teachers and students time and efforts in running this great and valuable program at

our school!"

Nominated by: Tammi M.

Nominee(s): **View Ridge Green Team**

School: **View Ridge Elementary School**

"The View Ridge Green Team maintains a successful lunchroom recycling and composting program and seeks to continually improve school efforts to conserve by raising awareness and educating families, and by seeking new areas of further influence.

The recycling and composting program was started in 2009. This program is supported by our 3rd & 4th grade students who monitor waste bins and help other students sort their waste each and every day. 3rd & 4th grade classrooms rotate weekly all year long, so all students in these grades have opportunities to share in this civic responsibility. The students are supervised and assisted in the lunchroom by one parent each day. This school year, a group of 10 parents has shared the responsibility of supporting the program. In addition, school principal Terri Skjei, custodian Bobby Singh, and food service employee Jerry Hall often lend their assistance to the students.

The Green Team has sought to extend its influence beyond sorting waste in the lunchroom, with the goal of creating a green culture in the school. This has happened through educating and raising awareness, and continually looking for other areas where waste can be reduced.

Last year, one day was chosen to set aside uneaten or mostly uneaten food in the lunchroom. The food and beverages collected were photographed and the photos shared with families via the school's email newsletter. Parents were encouraged to have a conversation with their child and adjust what and how much food is sent with their child, in an effort to reduce unnecessary food waste. Further education of families was also provided periodically via newsletter in the form of quick tips for packing a zero-waste lunch, i.e. providing a reusable water bottle rather than packing a juice box.

When holidays are approaching, a letter is sent to room parents and staff, educating and reminding them how to reduce waste at class parties. To further this effort, the Green Team hopes to use its green team funding to purchase kits of reusable plates, cutlery, and cups to be used by classes for their parties. A goal for next school year is to conduct a classroom waste audit with the help of students to determine if composting should be provided in classrooms.

Furthermore, the Green Team has collaborated with other PTA committees to reduce waste at school community events, such as the pancake breakfast and ice cream social. The Green Team has been able to advise committee chairs on purchasing, and to use its own budget to purchase compostable cutlery for these events.

The Green Team also has the goal of becoming certified as a Washington Green School.

The real strength of the View Ridge Green Team is in its determination to see continual improvement!"

Nominated by: Tamara B.

Nominee(s): **Lily Farnham**, student
School: **Viewlands Elementary School**

“Lily has worked very hard to start up our composting program here at Viewlands. Because of her, our lunchroom has cut our waste in half. She cares deeply about the environment and has given up many hours to help our school with green goals.”

Nominated by: Rachel S.

Nominee(s): **Don Neal**, Custodial Engineer & **Scott Anderson**, Licensed Assistant
School: **West Seattle Elementary School**

“Don Neal and Scott Anderson are two team players that we couldn’t do without! Although it’s not part of the custodial job to help or even be a part of the composting program, Don and Scott have taken on many tasks and responsibilities. Both of them have stepped up in supporting our efforts to compost lunch and afternoon produce-snack waste. From the beginning of our planning stages to our current school-wide efforts they have contributed to making our Green Recycling and Composting Program the everyday norm at WSE.

Don works with the kitchen staff and our Head Start Program to collect compost that would otherwise be trash because of our inability to oversee those areas of our school. Some other duties that have increased his work load are: ordering composting bags, managing the downsizing/upsizing of our trash/recycle/compost bins, and modifying the compost bins so that bag changes are more kid-friendly.

Scott Anderson cleans at night and makes the last sweep of the day, emptying any compost-containers and last-minute end-of-the-day-dumps that we may have. He sends us e-mails to let us know what might need to be tweaked regarding placement of smaller bins or reminders to staff and students about where things should go.

Both Don and Scott are always open to our questions and ideas and they willingly give input when needed. They are not only cooperative but bear the increase to their work loads without complaint. As Scott says, “We have to do this!” Both of them are diligent about watching what goes where and into which bins in order to prevent contamination. We feel very fortunate to have them on our Green Team.”

Nominated by: Anne C. and Magda A.

Nominee(s): **Rebecca Adamson**, parent & school employee
School: **Whittier Elementary School**

“Rebecca is a parent and hourly employee at Whittier Elementary. Rebecca was an early advocate for getting food composting into our school. Before we had it, she brought composting bags and containers to evening community events at our school, and tried to generate support for starting the cafeteria composting program. She went to the training and later created a parent green team, which was an important step for creating the support needed. When finally we did get composting started, she became the adult supervisor, setting up and often taking out the bags for collection herself. She’s pretty much been a one-person composting supervisor for the program, with a little help from me at the beginning.”

Nominated by: Susan W.

