



GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THOMAS STONE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN

2018

INTRODUCTION

As a participant in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, George Washington Birthplace National Monument (GEWA) and Thomas Stone National Historic Site (THST) belong to a network of parks nationwide that are putting climate friendly behavior at the forefront of park operations and resource management. As part of this program, GEWA and THST have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, participated in a climate change and sustainability workshop, set climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction goals, and integrated these actions into a park-wide Environmental Management System (EMS).

The EMS takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing environmental impacts at the park. The EMS provides a framework for tracking environmental protection and sustainability priorities and details the implementation of these actions. By integrating CFP-related actions into the parks' EMS, GEWA and THST are taking an integrated approach to climate change response and sustainable management of park resources.



Monument to George Washington at GEWA

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

GEWA and THST are committed to protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources through environmental stewardship, as mandated by the Organic Act and each park's enabling legislation. This commitment includes energy, water, solid waste, chemical use, and GHG emissions reductions (collectively called sustainability), as required by federal Executive Orders and Department of the Interior and NPS policy.

Our staff, volunteers, and contractors are expected to follow our environmental, pollution prevention, energy reduction, and related procedures and programs. Together we will examine and conduct operations and activities in a professionally sound manner, complying with the intent of applicable environmental regulations, standards, executive orders, and policies related to sustainability.

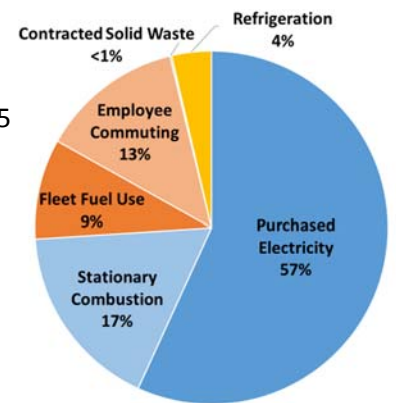
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, GEWA and THST had taken several actions toward sustainability as part of our EMS. As a result, we have already significantly reduced our environmental impact.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
Energy	Conducted an energy audit in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.
	Purchased propane mowers and battery-powered weed eaters and blowers.
	Purchased alternative fuel vehicles, and down-sized the fleet by removing obsolete or unnecessary vehicles.
	Began replacing light fixtures with LEDs and installed motion sensors for lighting.
Waste	Replaced an inefficient HVAC system in collections storage facility.
	Recycled electronics, metal, and other materials.
	Maintain an environmental purchasing program to ensure purchases are necessary and meet sustainability requirements.
	Stopped purchasing disposable and non-recyclable/compostable cups and plates and encourage the use of reusable cups, plates and utensils whenever possible.
Education / Communication	Added signage about the park recycling program to encourage recycling by visitors.
	Held a Climate Friendly Parks workshop.
	Lead a partnership with other local public lands for the Hike 100 program.
	Host community events to encourage exercise in the park.

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

GEWA and THST developed a GHG inventory of park operations using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. In FY 2016, GEWA and THST emitted 433 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E) from park operations. GEWA accounted for about 75 percent of the parks' combined footprint. Electricity for lighting and cooling buildings, on-site stationary combustion of energy, and employee commuting are the largest sources of emissions at these two parks (as shown for the two parks in the adjacent figure). This baseline data helps inform the goals we have set and the actions we are taking to meet those goals.



2016 GHG Emissions from Park Operations

GOALS & ACTIONS

As part of the CFP program, GEWA and THST have developed a number of goals. To help meet these goals, the parks will develop annual actions and track them through the EMS. Upcoming actions are listed below. We will annually chart our progress against the goals and refine our actions as necessary.

	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
Goal	Reduce GHG emissions by 20% from baseline year of 2016 by 2025	Reduce electricity use by 35% by 2025	Educate 25% of park visitors about climate change and sustainability practices by 2025.

2018 Action Plan

- Implement upgrades to building HVAC systems, lighting, and windows to reduce energy use in buildings.
- Continue to incorporate alternative fuel vehicles and equipment to reduce vehicle emissions.
- Upgrade to efficient HVAC system at THST.
- Replace windows and doors at GEWA Visitor Center.
- Replace outdoor light fixtures with LEDs.
- Install on-demand propane water heaters to replace electric water heaters, where appropriate.
- Create a park specific climate change message to share with park visitors.
- Create a rack card highlighting both parks' commitments to sustainability.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

With staff input, the Management Team regularly monitors and updates sustainability goals for the park. The Management Team also works together to identify sustainability and climate change challenges, tracks progress toward achieving goals, and works with other staff to continually improve operations. Through Management Team leadership, the park ensures that sustainability initiatives move forward and goals are accomplished.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

GEWA and THST demonstrate a commitment to sustainability by regularly communicating and seeking feedback on the parks' EMS goals and achievements in division and all employee meetings, as well as providing park-wide training. By continuing to maintain thoughtful communication with all employees, we are developing an environment that provides both guidance and clarity, while instilling ownership and support for accomplishing sustainability goals and initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The elements of our EMS form the foundation of the environmental protection, climate change response, and sustainability work we will accomplish at GEWA and THST.



Thomas Stone House

We hope visitors will check back with us and see how we progress as our program continues to evolve!

CONTACTS

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CFP PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By identifying a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal, climate change response/sustainability actions, and outreach initiatives related to sustainability and climate change and sustainability topics, George Washington Birthplace National Monument (GEWA) and Thomas Stone National Historic Site (THST) are official members of the Climate Friendly Parks Program. For more information about the program, please visit the CFP website or contact the CFP team (information above).

Park Superintendent 9.13.18 Date

Kristoffer Hewitt
NER Environmental Program Manager 09/18/2018

Regional Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) Program Representative Date

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Date: 2018.09.17 11:31:11 -04'00'

National Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) Program Representative Date