



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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## Hawai'i Volcanoes **NEWS RELEASE**

April 18, 2007

### **Hawai'i's National Parks Celebrate Earth Day Free Entrance Sunday for Hybrid, Electric, and Bio-diesel Vehicles**

National parks throughout the country are taking the threat of Global Warming seriously and taking steps to reduce their emissions of CO<sup>2</sup> and other greenhouse gases.

The US Government and the overwhelming majority of scientists agree that climate change is real and poses a serious global hazard. Greenhouse gases are necessary for life on earth. Without them, we could not live because the earth would be too cold. Too much of them, however, and global temperatures rise, climate is destabilized, and our health and the health of the global ecosystem is in danger.

Sunday, April 22nd, marks the 37th Anniversary of Earth Day—a perfect occasion for parks to support visitors who are “Climate Friendly.” Hawai'i Volcanoes, Haleakala, and Pu`uhonua o Honaunau national parks will waive entrance fees for those driving hybrid, electric, and bio-diesel vehicles.

At Haleakala, explore a varied and dramatic landscape that stretches from the volcano's 10,000' summit to the ocean and taro fields of Kipahulu. At Pu`uhonua o Honaunau, walk back in time across a cove of sand and shell bits, past thatched hale, stone walls, and wooden ki'i (effigies). At Hawai'i Volcanoes, lehua are blooming, Kamehameha and Blackburn butterflies are about, and steam plumes continue to billow skyward where lava flows into the sea.

Hybrid vehicles combine the benefits of gasoline engines and electric motors to provide improved fuel economy. The engine provides most of the vehicle's power, and the electric motor provides additional power when needed, such as for accelerating and passing. This allows use of a smaller, more-efficient engine.

No hybrid in your carport? You can still help. Keep your car tuned and tires inflated; maintain a steady speed and obey the speed limit; drive your most efficient car whenever possible; carpool, walk, bike, and ride the bus; and make your next car a super gas-efficient one.

No car in your carport? You can still help by turning off your computer's monitor and hard-drive when not in use. It's estimated that one computer left on 24-hours a day dumps 1500 pounds of CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere. A tree absorbs between 3 to 15 pounds of CO<sup>2</sup> each year. That means that 100 to 500 trees are necessary to offset the yearly emissions of one computer left on all the time. At Hawai'i Volcanoes computers are programmed to power down after 20 minutes of inactivity.

For more information on Earth Day, go to <http://www.earthday.net>

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