

National Park Service  
2002 Environmental Achievement Awards  
Winner

**Crissy Field Warming Hut Team,**  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Crissy Field was a former Army dumping ground with an obsolete airfield on the shore of San Francisco Bay. Through a \$34.8 million public campaign, it was transformed into a new 100-acre shoreline park. Part of the rehabilitation included revitalizing a dilapidated structure built in 1909 and originally used as an engineering warehouse. This challenge provided a great opportunity to serve out the National Park Service (NPS) mission of strengthening integration of environmental conservation and historic preservation. In under a year, the 2,400 square foot building was renovated using sustainable practices throughout the process.



**Warming Hut Project Team**

Collaborators on this project included professionals from the NPS, the Golden Gate National Parks Association (GGNPA), the non-profit cooperating organization to the Golden Gate National Parks, Berkeley Builders Inc., general contractors, and other consultants. The group established a working definition of sustainability that included the following objectives: chose self-perpetuating materials and resources, select materials derived from renewable resources, and support positive social and economic goals.

The difficulty of balancing preservation needs with sustainability goals became apparent when a product did not perform as desired. According to Carrie Strahan, NPS Warming Hut team lead, defending material choices during the budget process or facing resistance to an unusual specification was sometimes necessary. “We learned you’ve got to stick to your guns because once it’s in place, you can’t go back.” The team’s efforts paid off. The Warming Hut’s achievements in sustainability include:

- Building materials were selected based on recycled content, low toxicity levels and reuse potential;
- Retail products and fixtures were chosen based on their educational value and ability to meet sustainability objectives;
- Story panels and photographs used to interpret contextual themes were framed in recycled barn wood; and,

- The café uses local organic produce where possible and supports sustainable farming practices.

This collaborative effort has received positive reviews from visitors and the media, and demonstrates the Park's dedication to sustainability preserving our nation's natural and cultural resources.