

National Park Service
2004 Environmental Achievement Awards
Winner

Blue & Gold Fleet, Concessioner
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Blue & Gold Fleet (B&G), a concessioner in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, has implemented exemplary environmental stewardship, pollution prevention and waste reduction practices in its ferry operations.

In 2003, B&G demonstrated an exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship through numerous partnerships with local governmental and non-governmental agencies:

- Partnered with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to address vessel emissions, air- and water-quality degradation, energy and water conservation, green procurement, recycling, waste reduction, and public support issues allowing B&G to plan, develop, and implement stabilization and rehabilitation projects and improve the sustainability of vessel and on-island operations;
- Partnered with the City and County of San Francisco (SF) Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as part of an incentive program to reduce local power consumption. The PUC granted funding for an upgrade the Pier 41 facility HVAC systems;
- Partnered with UC Berkeley, the Water Transit Authority (WTA), Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board for emissions testing of engines, fuels and alternate technologies. This testing significantly advanced the understanding of alternate diesel-fuel technology in ferry applications;
- Positioned itself as a leader in low-emission technology applications to the marine environment through its research and development and through active membership in the SF Bay Water Transit Authority ad-hoc “Clean Marine” work group;
- Partnered with the WTA Zero-Emissions Fuel-Cell Ferry Project and has been designated the future operator of the first zero-emissions ferry on the bay;
- Received funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Control District and the California Air Resources Board for post-combustion engine exhaust traps which may lead to an 80% reduction in soot and particulate matter as well as an 80% reduction in carbon monoxide; and
- Partnered with the City and County of SF Department of Public Health to develop a pollution prevention checklist for marine operations. The checklist is an assessment baseline and P2 pledge that SF marina and vessel operations can use as a guideline for “Green Business” certification.

In 2003, Blue and Gold Fleet also demonstrated a solid commitment to environmental management through a variety of initiatives, including recycling, environmental purchasing, energy conservation and environmental education:

- Recycled more than 100,000 pounds of cardboard, 32,000 pounds of paper, and 5,000 gallons of used oil; also recycled bottles/cans, batteries, light tubes, wood, plastic, glass, rubber, aluminum, steel, and electronic equipment;
- Used environmentally preferred soy-based inks on its tickets, brochures and business cards;
- Purchased paper products that have 20 to 35% post-consumer content;
- Served certified shade-grown organic coffee on its vessels;
- Upgraded its exterior and office lighting to more efficient and environmentally preferable fixtures;
- Utilized three zero-emissions electric vehicles in its operations;
- Replaced the last of its two-stroke main diesel engines with more efficient four-stroke engines that have electronic fuel-control systems;
- Employees of Blue and Gold Fleet received extensive environmental training in subject areas including pollution prevention, source reduction, best management practices, green procurement, environmental partnerships, public education, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Marine Mammal Center policies and procedures, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network policies and procedures, environmental emergency response and prevention, Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP), Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), Hazard Communication (HAZCOM), and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER);
- Assisted the WTA in the design and construction of the first hydrogen fuel-cell powered ferry and was designated as the future operator of the vessel;
- Assisted the WTA ad-hoc “Clean Marine” work group in the design of two different SCR technologies which are to be installed on four vessels in 2004;
- Tested bio-diesel to assess its emissions and efficacy in conjunction with water-injection technologies and the use of fuel additives;
- Developed a cost-effective fuel mixture that can reduce airborne particulates up to 60% and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) up to 25%;
- Researched, developed and installed (with funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Control District and the California Air Resources Board) post-combustion engine exhaust traps; and
- Reduced bilge-slop generation in 2002 by 45% (from the 1998 baseline) and continued this trend in 2003.