

National Park Service
2007 Environmental Achievement Awards

Winner

Whitman Mission National Historic Site Management Team
“Environmental Achievements at Whitman Mission National Historic Site”

The Whitman Mission National Historic Site (NHS) Management Team uses the Park’s Environmental Management System to initiate, develop and implement many environmentally beneficial and innovative projects. In FY06, the Management Team’s efforts resulted in reduced energy and water consumption, less pollutants released to the environment, and significant energy and water cost savings.

Some examples of innovative projects completed in FY06 include:

- Installed the first solar-powered grid-tied system between a major public utility and an NPS site within the state of Washington. The 60-panel photovoltaic system has the potential to generate 17,975 kilowatt hours of renewable energy each year. Use of the system has reduced the Park’s energy consumption by 30%, resulting in a reduction of carbon emissions by over three metric tons in FY06.
- Conducted a pilot project to study the effects of converting to B20 blended fuel (20 % biodiesel, 80% petroleum diesel). The Park blended the B20 onsite and converted all park diesel applications (including some heating systems) to B20. Using B20 has reduced:
 - Overall fuel costs by 10%;
 - CO2 emissions by 16%;
 - NO and SO2 emissions by 20%, and
 - Particulate matter, hydrocarbon, and carbon monoxide emissions by 20% to 40%.
- Diverted 91% of the Park’s solid waste from landfills through recycling and composting initiatives.
- Reduced water consumption by 30% through installation of waterless urinals and low-flow toilets, and replacement of an outdated heating/cooling system.

The Whitman Mission NHS Management Team’s many accomplishments in environmental stewardship can serve as a model for all NPS units seeking to reduce the impact of their operations on the environment.