

National Park Service  
2013 Environmental Achievement Awards

**Winner**

**Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Green Team**  
*An Integrated Environmental Plan*

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is a pioneer in the development of a hybrid environmental management system (EMS) called an Integrated Environmental Plan (IEP). The IEP, developed and maintained by the park's Green Team, combines, streamlines, and simplifies environmental management and the reporting of sustainability and environmental management efforts.

The benefits of the IEP include:

- Less time spent administering environmental actions and more time spent accomplishing them;
- More effective data collection and reporting;
- Better scientific input into park decision making regarding environmental management and sustainability priorities; and
- Thorough discovery of synergies among different park program areas.

In 2012, the Green Team made substantial progress in integrating the IEP into all aspects of park operations. The Green Team provided orientation training for all park staff on the IEP and showcased several goals that the park had accomplished the previous year. In addition, the Team created a webpage that makes the entire plan available on the park's internet site. The webpage also contains links to documents, plans, other regulatory and reporting websites, training requirements, and more.

With support from the park superintendent and division chiefs, the Team guided park staff to meet substantial, measurable, and meaningful park-wide goals including, but not limited to:

- Reducing energy use at Meyers Beach and Stockton Island vault toilets through the installation of solar powered vent fans and lights;
- Removing propane ovens and offering solar ovens to save energy and reduce fuel transport costs at remote island locations; and,
- Reducing or eliminating the need for herbicides to control invasive plant species during restoration projects by restoring native plants at disturbed landscapes.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's Green Team continues to work with park staff to protect the natural and cultural resources of Lake Superior's archipelago and shoreline. The Green Team efforts should serve as a model for environmental management at other parks, as it demonstrates the National Park Service's commitment to sustainability.