

National Park Service
2013 Environmental Achievement Awards

Winner

Kalaupapa National Historical Park Green Team

Green Team Achievements

In the past, the majority of solid waste generated at Kalaupapa National Historical Park was disposed of at two onsite landfills managed by the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH). Only about 20 percent of materials were being recycled.

Through a cooperative agreement with the DOH, solid waste operations at the park have been transferred to the NPS. This transfer of duties to the park produced an integrated solid waste management system, developing and encouraging appropriate solid waste disposal alternatives such as recycling and composting, results in minimal impacts to the land, water, and people of the island.

In 2012, the park's Green Team implemented the program producing the following results:

- Recycled 193,413 pounds of materials including not only common items like aluminum and bimetal cans, glass, paper, cardboard, and plastic, but also less common items such as e-waste, clothing and furniture.
- Desposed a variety of construction, demolition, hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

Because of these efforts, the park's municipal trash diversion rate for FY2012 is estimated to have been about 85 percent, quadrupling the rate from past years. Additionally, the increase in recycling has motivated park staff to seek sustainable practices beyond recycling at work and at home. Team members have been approached on ways to further reduce waste through composting, alternative transportation, powering-down electronics, and reducing paper generation.

The Kalaupapa National Historical Park Green Team has committed to resource stewardship through proper waste disposal management—including recycling, reuse, composting, and proper hazardous waste disposal. Their efforts should serve as a model for solid waste management at other parks, as it demonstrates the National Park Service's commitment to sustainability.