



A Few Green Points

Point Reyes National Seashore – Sustainability Newsletter

May 2012, Issue 8

Parks Committed to Federal Green Challenge Goals

Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA) are actively participating in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Federal Green Challenge. The Federal Green Challenge is an initiative which challenges federal agencies throughout the country to “lead by example” by reducing the environmental impacts of the federal government. Kicking-off the challenge, PORE and GOGA commits to improvement goals of at least 5% per year in a minimum two of the six target areas –waste, electronics, purchasing, energy, water, and transportation (at least one of the selected target areas must be waste electronics, or purchasing). PORE has committed to an annual minimum of 5% reduction in landfill waste generation and energy consumption. GOGA has committed to an annual minimum of 5% reduction in water consumption, energy consumption, and landfill waste generation. The parks are working to attain their goals through sustainability and climate change action initiatives, stakeholder collaboration, education programs, and innovative projects. In addition to the individual goals of each participating agency, the participating federal community has pledged to implement the exclusive purchasing of 100% recycled content paper.

There are 27 active National Park Service units participating in the Federal Green Challenge. Of those 27 units, 21 are within the Pacific West Region.

Benefits of joining the Federal Green Challenge include networking with other federal agencies to share sustainability successes and challenges, taking advantage of EPA’s technical assistance in reaching sustainability goals, a platform to demonstrate innovative techniques for lowering the federal government’s carbon footprint, and regional and national recognition.

For more information and to join the Federal Green Challenge:
<http://www.epa.gov/fgc>



Photos: (Top) Federal Green Challenge Award in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy awarded to Point Reyes National Seashore this year (May 2012). (Below) PORE Headquarters Administration building that was awarded an EnergySTAR building certification last Fall 2011.

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Green Your Car - Vehicle Maintenance can help reduce your carbon pollution if you: 1) Maintain proper pressure on your tires, this will improve fuel efficiency; 2) Check and replace your air filter regularly; 3) Get regular tune-ups- it’s beneficial for both mileage and emission reduction; 4) Remove non-essential items from your car- the heavier your car is, the more gas is used to move.

PWR Directive 048 Update – Sustainable Design and Construction Practices

Pacific West Region Directive #048 was recently updated to include the latest requirements and guidance for sustainable design and construction practices. The updated directive, released in early May superseded the November 9, 2004 version. Updates include compliance with Executive Order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, 2009), Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, 2007), as well as requirements and guidelines from the newly released Green Parks Plan, the NPS Sustainable buildings Implementation Plan, the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Existing Buildings, the NPS Project Sustainability Checklist, and the latest version of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria.

Earlier this year Point Reyes National Seashore and Hostelling International USA opened the first hostel building in the country to be LEED certified. The completed facility hopes to lead by example in promoting and publicizing sustainable, high performing buildings while committing to reducing environmental impacts and our carbon footprint.

For more details about this directive and other related directives, visit these links below:

For a list of PWR Directives visit:
<http://inside.nps.gov/regions/custommenu.cfm?lv=1&rgn=PWR&id=661>

Link to the PWR Green Maintenance page:
<http://inside.nps.gov/regions/region.cfm?lv=3&rgn=319>



Green Parks Plan Released

Last month the National Park Service released the *Green Parks Plan* which lays out the key components and strategic plans for making our park operations more green and sustainable. The plan involves establishing environmental performance targets, empowering staff, collaborating with stakeholders, and engaging with millions of visitors to support our efforts. The plan focuses on a continuous improvement in energy management, water conservation, fleet and transportation management, waste management, wilderness values, and other sustainability best practices. The plan can be downloaded here: <http://www.nps.gov/greenparksplan/>

9 Strategic Goals (from *Green Parks Plan*)

1) Continuously Improve Environmental Performance:

2) Be Climate Friendly and Climate Ready

3) Be Energy Smart

4) Be Water Wise

5) Green Our Rides

6) Buy Green and Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

7) Preserve Outdoor Values

8) Adopt Best Practices

9) Foster Sustainability Beyond Our Boundaries

Key 2010-2011 statistics:

2.6 billion gallons of water consumed in national parks every year.

48 National Park Service buildings certified under the Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

72 Parks that account for 75 percent of the National Park Service's total annual energy consumption.

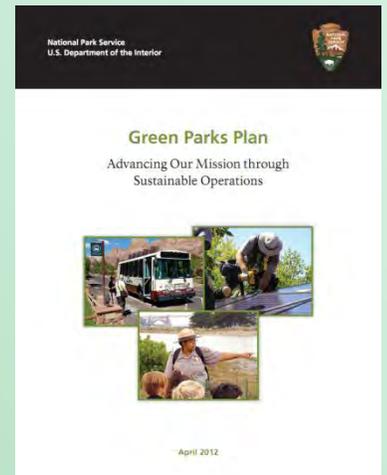
15,000 U.S. households that, on average, consume as much energy annually (1.4 million MMBTU) as the entire National Park Service.

\$44 million average annual energy costs for the National Park Service.

280 million annual visits to national parks and opportunities to demonstrate sustainable operations.

NPS Call to Action Goal #23: **GO GREEN**

Reduce the NPS carbon footprint and showcase the value of renewable energy to the public by doubling, over 2009 levels, the amount of renewable energy generated within parks and used by park facilities.



Earthweek Photos 2012



Education



Environment

Health & Wellness



Stewardship

Volunteering



Teamwork



Community

Upcoming Dates & Events



- May 22 – Federal Energy Management Program webinar – GovEnergy Webinar Series: –Technologies – Tomorrow is Too Late – GO!!!” (Introduction to Energy Concepts Track) - provides a brief synopsis of technologies, presented with an emphasis on the most prevalent technologies utilized in energy projects, such as lighting upgrades and controls. 10am-12pmPST (Online)
To register: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/course_detail_live.cfm?CourseDatelD=456
- May 22 & June 21 – Federal Energy Management Program webinar: –Introduction to UESC (Utility Energy Service Contracts)” - An overview of the contracting options and services available from their local utility companies to engineer, finance, and install cost-effective energy and water savings projects. 8am-9:30PST
To register:
May 22: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/course_detail_live.cfm?CourseDatelD=457
June 21: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/course_detail_live.cfm?CourseDatelD=458
- May 24 12pm – Red Barn Brown Bag Lecture: –Removal of Scotch Broom from Point Reyes National Seashore”; Speakers: Lisa Michl and Ellen Hamingson, Point Reyes National Seashore
- May 31 - Federal Energy Management Program webinar – –The Guiding Principles Checklist in EnergySTAR® Portfolio Manager” 11am-12:30pmPST (Online)
To register:
http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/femp/training/course_detail_live.cfm?CourseDatelD=465
- June 2 – Point Reyes 2012 Trails Challenge Kick-Off Event. 9am-4pm Bear Valley Grove
Take the Challenge! You are invited to join this self-paced exploration of our amazing park.
More information at: <http://www.ptreyes.org/pointreyestrailschallenge.shtml>
- June 21 – Red Barn Brown Bag Lecture: –20 Years of Rangeland Vegetation Monitoring at Point Reyes National Seashore.”
Authors: Robert Steers, Heather Spaulding (NPS I&M Program- SF Area Network); Dylan Voeller, John DiGregoria, Devii Rao (Point Reyes National Seashore)



Monthly (and not just monthly) Challenge

Improve driving habits – a little goes a long way!



- Reduce unnecessary idling – save money, resources, lungs, and clean air
- Observe the speed limit
- Unless appropriate, consider a non-heavy duty vehicle for light-duty trips



Have any questions or comments or a story or topic you'd like to suggest or contribute? Feel free to contact Dale Dualan at 415-464-5100 x5942 (email: Dale_Dualan@nps.gov) or Sara Hammond at 415-464-5165 (email: Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)

