



A Few Green Points

Point Reyes National Seashore Quarterly Sustainability Newsletter

Fall 2014, Issue 15

New EV Charging Stations at Point Reyes NS

By John Dell’Osso

Three electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have been installed at the Bear Valley Visitor Center parking lot at Point Reyes National Seashore and they are available and free to the public.

The chargers were installed by [Sustainable Solutions Partners](#) coordinated by [Adopt-A-Charger, Inc.](#) through financial support from the [Transportation Authority of Marin Measure B Fund](#), [County of Marin Community Services Fund](#), the [Craig Matthew Childers memorial fund](#), the [Electric Auto Association](#), and the [Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association](#).

The chargers are operated on a first-come, first-serve basis. The chargers are using solar electricity generated at the Bear Valley Visitor Center via photovoltaic cells. In fact, the Seashore now generates approximately 35% of the energy it uses from 18 photovoltaic solar arrays on various buildings throughout the Seashore. The Park also has 8 alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet, including 5 Toyota RAV4 all-electric vehicles.

By “adopting” a charger, the Transportation Authority of Marin Measure B Fund, County of Marin Community Services Fund, the Craig Matthew Childers memorial fund, the Electric Auto Association, and the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association agreed to make a donation to Adopt-A-Charger to cover the cost



Three new electric vehicle charging stations have been installed at the Point Reyes National Seashore Bear Valley Visitor Center and is now open to the public. (Above) Scenes from the September 18th ribbon cutting ceremony. Photos: NPS.

of hardware, installation, maintenance, electrical usage, and the administration for three years. After that time period, the electrical usage will be paid by the Park’s non-profit, the [Point Reyes National Seashore Association](#).

“The Seashore is committed to sustainability,” said Park Superintendent Cicely Muldoon. “Having the ability to utilize new technologies as they become operational and investing in our future by educating the next generation all contribute to our goal of energy conservation and efficiency.”

“The National Park Service has always stood for environmental stewardship, and I am grateful that Adopt-A-Charger can help them address climate change,” said Kitty Adams, Executive Director of Adopt-A-Charger. “The existing EV

chargers at Crissy Field and Muir Woods provide inspiration to visitors who want to reduce their carbon footprint, and provide resources to expand the park’s green fleet. I am especially grateful to be honoring my friend Craig Childers, who was very passionate about the environment and a huge advocate for plug-in cars.”

For more information, visit: [Adopt-a-Charger](#) [DOE Clean Cities Program](#)

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Foam Block Recycling

Marin residents and businesses have the opportunity to drop-off their “hard-to-recycle” styrofoam blocks (or expanded polystyrene, EPS, the technical term) that do not get collected in the normal blue bin or any single-stream recycling . Proof Lab, a surf shop in Mill Valley, CA, has recycled Marin’s styrofoam blocks for the last few years as part of the greater “[Waste to Waves](#)” recycling campaign, a program where surf shops throughout California turn those blocks into surfboards.



ONLY styrofoam blocks are currently accepted! This does not include styrofoam peanuts! Blocks must be clean. Only 1 garbage bag full of blocks are allowed per visit. Styrofoam peanuts can be dropped off at your local UPS (United Parcel Service) store.

For Point Reyes National Seashore Staff: we will begin collecting work-related styrofoam blocks in our designated plastic packaging recycling labeled bins located in park headquarters (B&U and Administration).

Plastic packaging recycling bin label:



Accepted:
-plastic bags, film & packaging
-bubble wrap
-styrofoam peanuts & blocks

For any questions, contact Dale Dualan @ ext.5286.

For more information visit:

[Waste To Waves](#)

[How the Program Works](#)

[Styrofoam Block Drop-off Locations](#)

Coastal Cleanup Day

Tens of thousands gathered all along the California coast on September 20 to take part in the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. This effort removes hundreds of thousand of pounds of trash and recyclables that continue to wash up on our California beaches, lakes, and waterways every year.

Point Reyes National Seashore hosted a Coastal Cleanup Day event at Drakes Beach. With grey skies and moderate temperature, over 30 volunteers including a boy scout troop (Troop 152 from Oakley, CA) worked together to remove 80 pounds of trash, mostly plastic (with plastic so light, could you imagine how much plastic it took to reach nearly 80 lbs.?). This result was equivalent to about 13 large plastic bags worth in volume.

Items found on the beach included a plastic chair, pallets, plastic oyster tubes , shotgun shell waddings, and hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic.

With trash transporting and entering our oceans from our lands, streets,

neighborhoods, sewers, storm drains, fishing boats, the wind, and waterways, this can have a harmful effect on ocean wildlife, beach recreation, and ultimately our coastal ecosystems and economies. There are ways we can prevent coastal/marine debris pollution so that these areas are preserved and protected into the future:

Pack it in-pack it out. Trash can easily be packed out or disposed in proper disposal bins.

Leave no trace. Leave areas in the condition you found it.

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce the amount of disposable materials you consume, reuse what you can, and recycle items that have reached end-of-life stage.

Buy green/environmentally-friendly. Purchase items that won’t harm the environment, have little to no disposable packaging, have no toxic constituents.

Simply put, don’t litter. Friends, take care of our environment.

For more information visit: [California Coastal Cleanup Day](#)



Ranger John Reeves with one of many

Volunteers use a sand sifting tool to screen out shotgun waddings washed up on the beach. tiny pieces of plastic.

What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

The “Great Pacific Garbage Patch” is a term used to describe areas of marine debris concentrated in the North Pacific Ocean. Marine debris is continually mixed by the winds and waves and widely dispersed.

More information at: [NOAA-Garbage Patch](#)



[Click to Enlarge](#)

Visitor Center Lights the Way

The Bear Valley Visitor Center is the park's primary visitor center providing an orientation of the park's roads, trails, and human and natural history. It was designed to blend in with the historically significant ranching culture of this area and is located in the heart of the Olema Valley. The interior exhibit space provides a glimpse of the diverse ecosystems and cultural heritage of the park and includes a seismograph, touch table, auditorium, and book sales area.

However, the lighting in the visitor center was limited and of lesser quality. Bulbs were of mixed variety, burned out often, and some were located in areas that needed a 30-ft ladder to reach. The new Bear Valley Visitor Center Lighting project was a redesign of the lighting in the visitor center to create a brighter, safer environment for the overall visitor experience while reducing the amount of electricity used through the installment of compact fluorescence and light emitting diode

(LED) lighting systems. The project puts an emphasis on new green building technologies to reduce the parks carbon output.

The project identified lighting systems combined with design and layout in order to achieve maximum energy efficiency while maintaining the quality of light mandated for visitor centers and exhibit dioramas as well as specifying the best lighting controls for the building. These controls ensure the appropriate lighting for particular displays and sections of the visitor center. A method for various lighting levels, dependent on the building use, was established. This allows for maximum lighting quality during public visiting hours as well as allow for a lower load bearing yet functional lighting design for non-operating visiting hours, during which maintenance and office activities can take place.

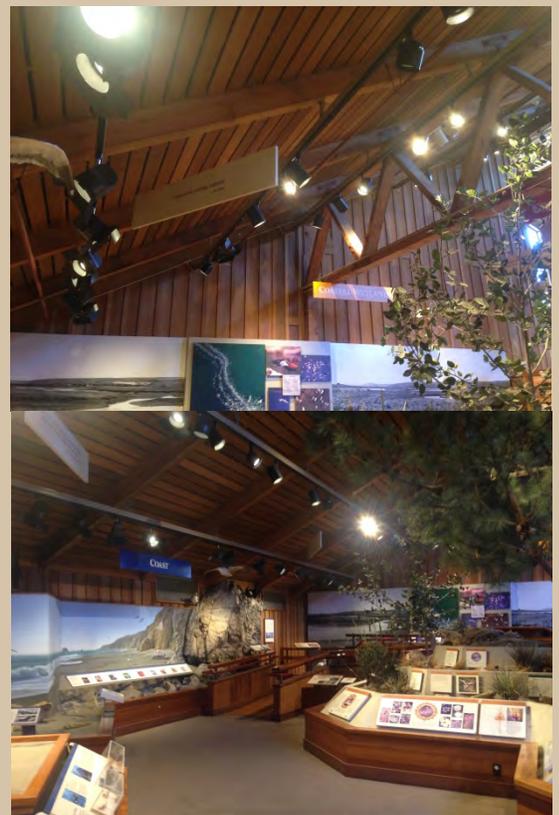
The Bear Valley Visitor Center, built in 1983, had limited lighting throughout

the building. The park later consulted with the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) out of the University of California, Davis. It was a goal to establish the design and guidelines implemented by CLTC for the Bear Valley Visitor Center as a model for all National Park Service Visitor Centers and Museums service-wide. Point Reyes National Seashore will develop an outreach component at the visitor center emphasizing energy efficiency with lighting practices and using renewable energy. Public education will focus not only on achieving energy savings at the visitor center, but how the visiting public can make a difference at home, at the office, and in other aspects of everyday life.

For more information, contact Sara Hammond, Facility Management Systems Specialist at (415)464-5286 or email sara_hammond@nps.gov.



Construction progress inside the Bear Valley Visitor Center (June 2014). Photos: NPS.



LED lights at the Bear Valley Visitor Center in full effect. Photos: NPS.

DID YOU KNOW?



Residential LED (light emitting diode) bulbs, especially ones rated ENERGY STAR, use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. More info at: [Dept. of Energy Lighting Facts](#)

Save Our Water! CA Drought Update

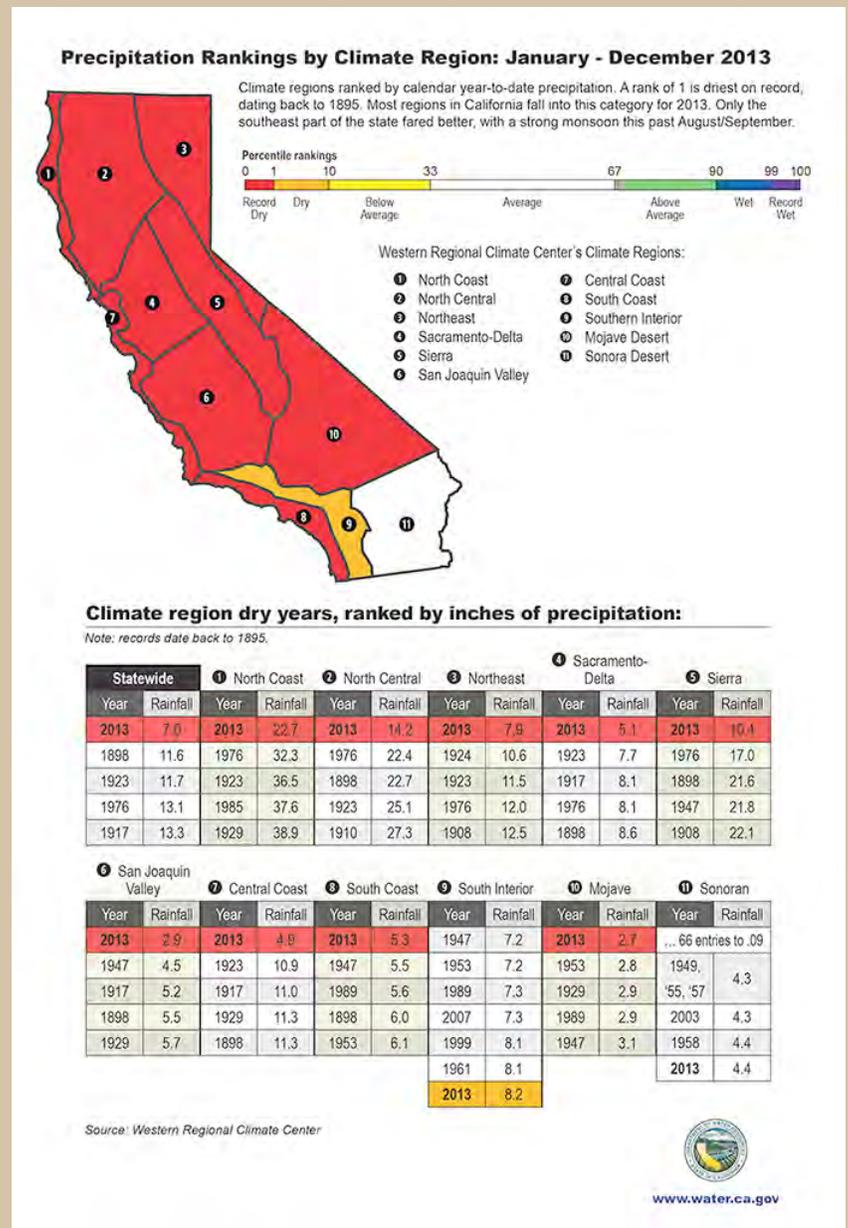
California's water year 2014 is going into the record books as one of the driest in decades following a record dry in 2013. In the past year, California experienced less than 60 percent of average precipitation while the state's major reservoirs are holding significantly less water (about 36 percent of storage capacity). With forest fires, impacts to agriculture and businesses, new groundwater management legislation- all a result of the augmented drought, conservation will be critical and essential to addressing our state's water supply into the future.

Meanwhile, emergency Water Conservation Ordinances are still in effect in West Marin ([Water Conservation Ordinance No. 29](#)) as customers are urged to reduce irrigation, fix leaks, and participate in water conservation programs (see North Marin Water District's [Water Smart Savings Programs](#)). A summary of water use prohibitions for the West Marin Service Area can be found [here](#).

Water Conservation Ordinance No. 29, which went into effect on April 1, 2014, was designed with three stages of water conservation action measures in order to achieve a minimum reduction of 50% in water consumption for the West Marin area. Stage 1 involved a voluntary 15% reduction of water use (as compared to 2013), encouraging customers to make conscious efforts towards conserving water. Stage 2, which went into effect on July 1, 2014, is the mandatory 25% reduction declaring prohibition of non-essential uses of water such as refilling a drained swimming pool or watering the lawn, garden, and landscape area without an automatic shut-off nozzle or a drip irrigation system. Stage three is a severe mandatory rationing stage involving a 50% reduction.

The ordinance will remain in effect until NMWD Board of Directors declare that the water shortage emergency has ended.

For more information and tips visit: [California Department of Water Resources Save Our Water North Marin Water District](#)

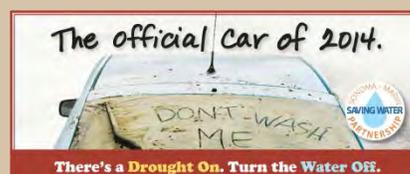


Click to enlarge. Precipitation rankings by climate region in California: From January-December 2013. Years 2013 and now 2014 were some of the driest years on record. Source: ca.gov

California is in a drought, please conserve water. Use only what you need.

Please report leaks to (415) 408-1675 or (415) 464-5170

Signs have been posted throughout Point Reyes National Seashore headquarter and public area restrooms.



Click [here](#) for more drought information and tips on how you can save water! Source: [NMWD](#)

Bear Valley Quad Powers Up With Solar

Bear Valley Headquarters recently installed 9kW (kilowatt) photovoltaic panels on the roofs of buildings 532 and 534.

The photovoltaic system is designed to produce 15,834 kWh (kilowatt-hours) per year, resulting in \$1,204.41 savings annually in utility expenses. It is estimated this photovoltaic system will prevent 3.76 metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually.

The Seashore now generates approximately 35% of the energy it uses from 18 photovoltaic solar arrays on various buildings throughout the Seashore.



Building 532



Solar panels being installed on building 534.

Youth Ambassadors Connect with Seashore

Over the summer, youth from the West Marin Community participated in a number of park events and activities as part of the Seashore Youth Ambassadors Project (SYAP), an **America's Best Idea (ABI)** grant program funded by the National Park Foundation. Now in its sixth year, ABI is aimed to connect local youth, families, community members, and visitors with national parks through meaningful and relevant ways that will inspire participants to become stewards of our national park systems. Reaching out to diverse, youth audiences is of particular importance to the program as noted in the NPS document, "Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement."

Point Reyes National Seashore has partnered with the [Point Reyes National Seashore Association \(PRNSA\)](#) and the [Tomales Bay Youth Center \(TBYC\)](#) to coordinate SYAP programs. Summer programs included a kick-off event at the Launch For Hire Boathouse in Inverness with food and games with park staff, beach bonfires, a sea turtle sand sculpture contest, beach cleanup and marine debris study.

Aimed at the 6th through 8th grade middle school youth, the SYAP program will look to partner and collaborate with the West Marin School, Gallery Route One's Artists in the School Program, and the West Marin Coalition for Healthy Kids.

For more information visit: [America's Best Idea](#).

Or contact Jamie Shulander, SYAP Coordinator, (415) 450-7884

Email: jshulander@gmail.com



Scenes from the Seashore Youth Ambassadors Project events and activities. Photos: NPS.

Fall In Love With Food

Living in the SF Bay Area, we are lucky to have many local food systems right here in our geographic region. When food is grown locally, as opposed to nationally or globally, less transportation is required before it ends up on our plate.

One method of local food distribution are Farmers' Markets: communal spaces in which farmers sell their produce directly to consumers. To find a farmers' market in your neighborhood, click [here](#).

Another method of local food distribution is through Community Supported Agriculture, or CSAs. These direct-to-consumer programs allow customers to buy "shares" of the farm's projected harvest.

Supporting local food systems helps support local farms, can help protect our health and the health of our community, and keeps dollars in the local economy.

Here's a look at some of the vegetables and fruits that are in season right now. You can also download a SF Bay Area "Vegetable Seasonality Chart" complements of the Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market by clicking [here](#).

Warm-Me-Up-Soup

- 1 medium diced onion
- 2 medium diced carrots
- 1 stalk of diced celery
- 2 to 3 cloves of garlic

Assorted winter vegetables (such as fennel, leafy greens, winter squash, parsnips, potatoes, broccoli), enough to yield 3 cups when diced

3 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Dried or fresh herbs (thyme, parsley, or bay leaf; optional)

6 cups broth (such as vegetable or chicken)

Grated parmesan or other hard cheese (optional)



cuesa.org

Directions

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent, about 5 minutes.
2. Add the carrots, celery, and garlic and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 2 minutes.
3. Add any hearty vegetables (such as cabbage and potatoes) and dried herbs. Cook an additional 5 minutes.
4. Add the broth and any quicker-cooking vegetables (such as peas or tender leafy greens). Let the soup come to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and gently simmer, uncovered, until the starchiest vegetable can be easily pierced with a fork, about 15 to 25 minutes. If needed, season with additional salt and pepper.
5. Scatter freshly cut herbs and grated cheese atop each bowl of soup. Devour!

Upcoming Trainings/Events

Lunchtime Science Talks (All at Red Barn Classroom at 12pm)

When: Thursday, October 2, 2014

Title: Coastal Resources Management in the Context of Climate Change: A Landscape Perspective

Presenter: Rachel Kamman, Kamman Hydrology & Engineering, Inc.

When: Thursday, October 16, 2014

Title: Monitoring Coho Salmon with Sound: Lagunitas Creek DIDSON Pilot Project

Presenter: Ben Atencio, Point Reyes National Seashore Association

When: Thursday, October 23, 2014

Title: Climate and Mechanisms of Soil Carbon Stabilization: findings from Senior Thesis Research

Presenter: Anna Bischoff, Point Reyes National Seashore Association

Webinars

Title: The Federal Guiding Principles Checklist in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

Presenter: Erin Zayko, Project Manager, Lockheed Martin Energy Solutions

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2014

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm PDT

Registration Link: [Here](#)

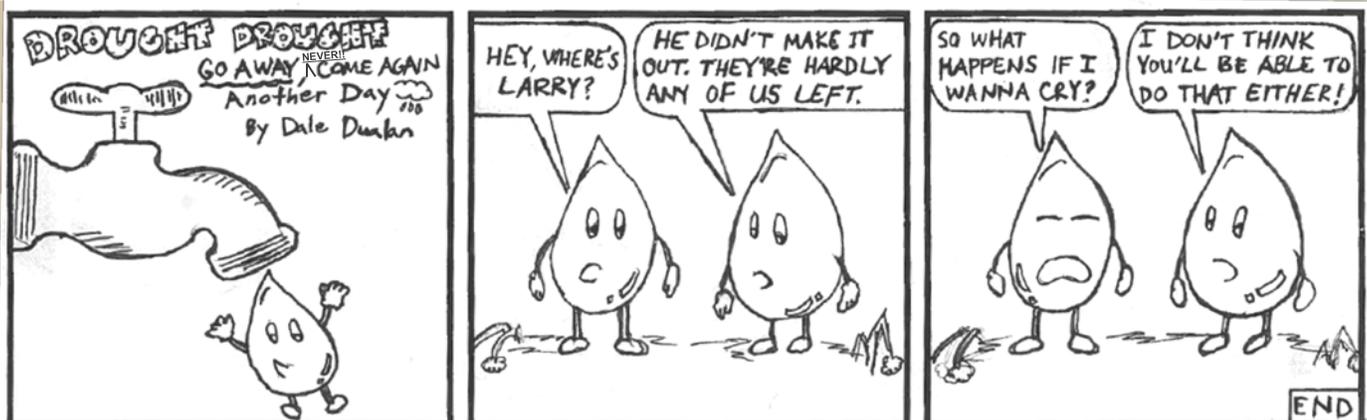
Title: Utility Energy Service Contracts Training for Utility Representatives

Presenter: Julia Kelley, Group Leader, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Time: 8:00pm - 9:30pm PDT

Registration Link: [Here](#)



Have any questions? Comments? Or a story or topic you'd like to suggest or contribute? Feel free to contact Dale Dualan at 415-464-5286 (email: Dale_Dualan@nps.gov) or Sara Hammond at 415-464-5165 (email: Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)