



CHRISTIANSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, SALT RIVER BAY NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK & ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE, AND BUCK ISLAND REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT: *CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN*

2014

INTRODUCTION

As participants in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM belong to a network of parks nationwide that are putting climate friendly behavior at the forefront of park operations and resource management. As part of this program, these parks have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, participated in a climate change and sustainability educational workshop, set climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction goals, and integrated these actions into a park-wide Environmental Management System (EMS).



The EMS takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing environmental impacts at the park. It also provides a framework for tracking environmental protection and sustainability priorities and details the implementation of these actions. By integrating CFP-related actions into the park's EMS, these parks are taking an integrated approach to climate change response and sustainable management of park resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM are committed to protecting and preserving its natural and cultural resources through environmental stewardship as mandated by the Organic Act and the parks' enabling legislation. This commitment includes energy, water, solid waste, chemical use, and GHG emissions reductions (collectively called sustainability) as required by federal Executive Orders and Department of the Interior and NPS policy, like the *Green Parks Plan*.

Our staff and volunteers will be expected to follow our environmental, pollution prevention, energy reduction, and related procedures and programs. Together we will examine and conduct operations and activities in a professionally sound manner, effectively and efficiently complying with the letter, spirit, and intent of applicable environmental regulations, standards, executive orders, and policies related to sustainability.

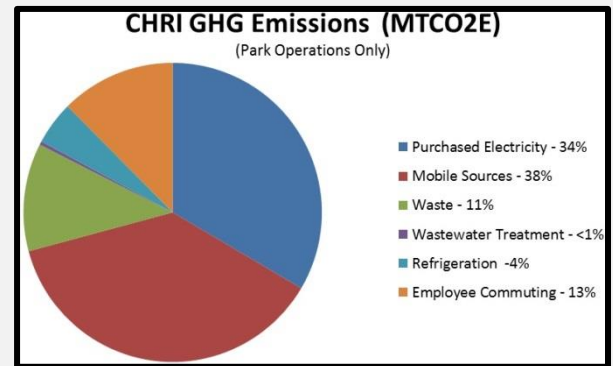
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM already started to embark on our sustainability journey by embedding sustainability actions in our operations. As part of these efforts, the parks have taken a number of actions which have reduced our environmental impact.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
GHG Emissions	Tinted windows to reduce heat gain, thus reduced the energy use to cool buildings
	Installed and utilize programmable thermostats to efficiently cool facilities
Energy	Replaced several exterior lighting fixtures with high-efficiency LED fixtures
	Skylights are utilized in public restrooms to reduce energy use
Education / Communication	Hosted a Climate Friendly Park workshop in May 2014
	Developed new educational brochures
Water	Installed low-flow fixtures and waterless urinals in several areas of the parks
	Established a limited-vehicle washing water conservation initiative

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM developed a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. Looking only at the emissions from park operations, purchased electricity (34%) and mobile combustion (38%) represent the largest sources (as shown in the figure). Having this baseline helps inform the goals and targets we have set and the actions we are taking to meet those.



GOALS & ACTIONS

As part of the CFP program, all three park units have developed a number of climate change response and sustainability goals. To help meet these goals, the parks will identify actions annually and track them through the EMS. A sample of the first year's actions is provided below.

	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
Goal	Reduce overall GHG emissions by 10% from baseline year of 2012 by 2020	Reduce GHG emissions from Energy use by 15%, Transportation by 5%, Water by 5%, and Waste by 5% from the baseline year by 2020.	Educate visitors about climate change and sustainability practices by providing at least 2 programs per year through 2020.
2014 Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install motion lighting sensors Install timers on hot waters Replace appliances as needed with EnergySTAR, high-efficiency, appliances Complete Integrated Solid Waste Alternatives Program (ISWAP) Plan for all park units Research opportunities for renewable energy systems, including funding opportunities for proposed solar PV project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to re-establish regular use of cisterns Submit proposal for Clean Cities Initiative for 2 electric vehicles and solar powered charging stations Research opportunity to install water filling stations Work with partners, like Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, to conduct assessments of climate change vulnerabilities of cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners, like Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, to conduct assessments of climate change vulnerabilities of cultural resources Develop park-specific climate change messages to increase awareness among visitors Develop sea-level-rise exhibit for Salt River Bay

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM staff will work across divisions to ensure sustainability initiatives move forward and goals are accomplished. Yearly action plans will be reviewed by the parks' management team and initiatives will be communicated across divisions.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM, we are developing an environment that provides guidance and clarity while instilling ownership and support in accomplishing sustainability and climate change response goals and initiatives. The parks will also increase climate change and sustainability communication initiatives for our visitors, include developing new programs and learning opportunities as shared above.



CONCLUSION

The elements of our EMS form the foundation of the environmental protection, climate change response, and sustainability work that we will accomplish at Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM. We hope that visitors will check back in with us and see how we progress as our program continues to evolve!

CONTACTS


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By identifying a greenhouse gas reduction goal, climate change response/sustainability actions, and outreach initiatives related to sustainability and climate change and sustainability topics, Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay NHP & Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island NM are official members of the Climate Friendly Parks Program. For more information about the program, please visit the CFP website or contact the CFP team (information above).



CFP Regional Representative



CFP National Program Representative



Park Superintendent