



Going Green

Preparing for Another Century

The National Park Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016, with a goal of exemplary service and public enjoyment for 100 more years to come. Part of this goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainability and renewable energy in our parks. Both Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks have made significant progress towards addressing this goal.

Facilities

After a park-wide energy audit, Everglades improved and updated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in many buildings to make them more energy efficient. Shortly thereafter, the superintendent for Everglades and Dry Tortugas established an energy conservation policy to lower energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The following projects help the parks achieve this goal.

At the Flamingo campgrounds in Everglades National Park, solar powered heaters are used to provide hot water for showers. Hot water was unavailable until the solar heaters were installed in 2010, so they also offer an improved, and energy efficient, service for you, our visitors.

The observation tower at Shark Valley provides a great view of the Everglades. In fact, the restroom facilities there have no municipal power and use a solar powered system for lights and equipment.

Loggerhead Key in Dry Tortugas, as the name suggests, is an important site for nesting loggerhead turtles and other turtle species. In 2008, the diesel powered generators on the Key were replaced with a photo voltaic system. This new solar powered system uses alternative energy and is an important part of the park's sustainability goals. It also reduces air pollution and operates more quietly than the diesel generators.

Garden Key, the location of Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas, recently upgraded to more fuel efficient generators. The new generators operate more quietly than the previous generators and will offer an improved visitor experience by not disrupting beach campers.



Solar arrays provide hot water at Flamingo campgrounds.
NPS Photo



Solar arrays power the generators at Loggerhead Key.
NPS Photo

