



# NICODEMUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN

### 2014

#### INTRODUCTION

As a participant in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Nicodemus National Historic Site belongs 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, Nicodemus has 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 Modified Environmental Management System (MEMS).



The MEMS takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing environmental impacts at the park. The MEMS 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 MEMS, Nicodemus is taking an integrated approach to climate change response and sustainable management of park resources.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Nicodemus National Historic Site is committed to protecting and preserving its natural, cultural, and archeological resources through environmental stewardship as mandated by the Organic Act and the park's 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.

Our staff, volunteers, and contractors 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. The park also:

- Maintains a chemical inventory and perform periodic inspections of facilities.
- Integrates environmental sustainability philosophies and practices in planning, purchasing, and operating decisions.
- Provide environmental management system awareness, hazardous communication and environmental purchasing training opportunities for staff.
- Assigns clear responsibility for environmental management activities and hold them accountable for their environmental performance, recognizing superior effort when it is demonstrated.
- Seeks opportunities to promote environmental compliance and stewardship to visitors and neighboring communities in which we serve.
- Monitors our environmental compliance performance regularly at both operational and organizational levels.

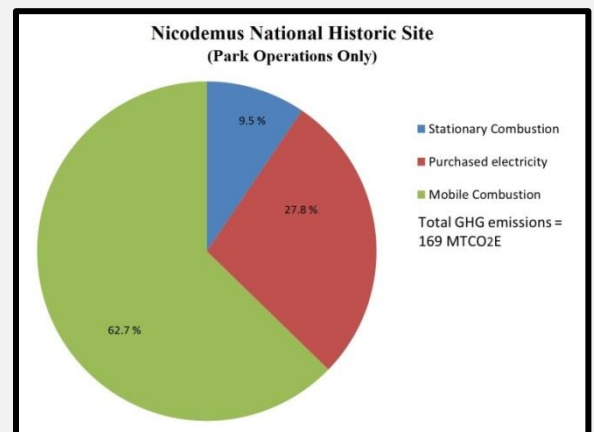
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, Nicodemus National Historic Site had already started to embark on our sustainability journey by embedding sustainability actions in our EMS. As part of these efforts, the park has taken a number of actions which have reduced our environmental impact.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
<b>GHG Emissions</b>	Received a grant from the Department of Energy (DOE), Clean Cities program for a dedicated propane-fueled mower
	Purchased a hybrid sedan to replace a gas-guzzler jeep
	Received funding from the National Park Service Midwest Region for a dedicated propane-fueled picku
	Purchased battery-powered grounds care equipment
<b>Waste</b>	Measured and developed a baseline for waste generation at the park
	Implemented a recycling plan and included the local community
<b>Education / Communication</b>	Held a Climate Friendly Park workshop!
	Developed a monthly all staff email to encourage sustainable actions
<b>Water</b>	Implemented a sustainable turf program with low maintenance native Buffalo Grass

## BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

Nicodemus National Historic Site developed a greenhouse gas inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. The largest single source of GHG emissions was transportation (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.



Nicodemus NHS 2012 Baseline GHG Emissions

## GOALS & ACTIONS

As part of the CFP program, Nicodemus has developed a number of goals. To help meet these goals, the park will develop annual actions and track them through the EMS. The first year of those actions are listed out below. We will continue to chart our progress against the goals annually and refine our actions as part of the plan, do, check, act process.

	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
<b>Goal</b>	Reduce GHG emissions by 10% from baseline year of 2011 by 2015	Reduce GHG emissions 20% by 2015	Educate all visitors about climate change and sustainability practices by 2015.
<b>2014 Action Plan</b>	Reduce electric consumption by 10%	Install custom storm windows in Visitor Center	Educate staff regarding turning off power to equipment at night, on weekends, when not in use to save energy; reduce furnace setting from 70° to 68°; increase air conditioning from 72° to 75°

## ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

The “Green Team” is an interdisciplinary group of park employees that regularly monitors and updates sustainability goals for the park. This team also works together to identify sustainability and climate change challenges, track progress toward achieving goals, and works with other staff to continually improve operations. Through their leadership, the park ensures that sustainability initiatives move forward and goals are accomplished. Once a year, the Team determines the park’s environmental impacts, sets sustainability and environmental compliance goals, determines strategies for reaching goals, assigns oversight for each goal to a specific staff member, and reviews and updates the park’s Environmental Commitment Statement (ECS).

## EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within Nicodemus National Historic Site, we are developing an environment that provides guidance and clarity while instilling ownership and support in accomplishing goals and initiatives. The park has improved communication amongst employees through all-employee meetings, park-wide training sessions and a monthly newsletter that highlights past and upcoming sustainability events within the parks and greater region.

## CONCLUSION

The elements of our EMS form the foundation of the environmental protection, climate change response, and sustainability work that we will accomplish at the Nicodemus National Historic Site. We hope that visitors will check back in with us and see how we progress as our program continues to evolve!



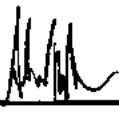
Nicodemus Township Hall

## CONTACTS

Climate Friendly Parks Program

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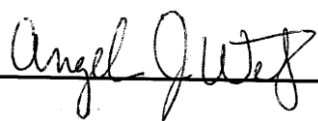
Website: [www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks)

 9/29/14

CFP National Representative      Date

 9.30.2014

CFP Regional Representative      Date

 9/26/14

Park Superintendent      Date