



RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN

2014

INTRODUCTION

As a participant in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Richmond National Battlefield Park (RICH) 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, RICH 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 Environmental Management System (EMS).



School Group at the park's main Visitor Center

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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

RICH 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.

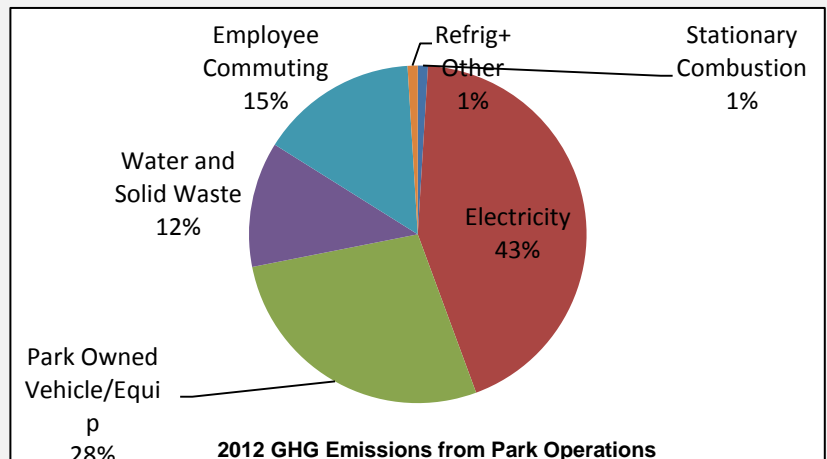
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, RICH had already started to embark on our sustainability journey by embedding sustainability actions in our EMS. As part of these efforts, RICH has taken a number of actions which have reduced our environmental impact. For example, since 2006, these actions have led to the park reducing GHG emissions per square acre by approximately 10%.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
GHG Emissions	Performed energy audits for all park buildings including concessions and housing in 2010
	Replaced 14 old HVAC units with high efficiency models
	Replaced vehicles with smaller and more fuel efficient models, including 5 hybrids
	Upgraded all park lighting to energy efficient fluorescent lamp tubes, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), or light-emitting diode (LED) lights
Waste	Measured and developed a baseline for waste generation at the park
	Developed an SOP for measuring recycling and trash volumes
Education / Communication	Held a Climate Friendly Park workshop!
	Developed a quarterly all staff email to discuss sustainability topics
	Carried out annual Environmental and Safety training for all park staff
Water	Installed low flow fixtures and motion activated sinks

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

RICH developed a greenhouse gas inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. 40% of the parks' emissions are from park operations and 60% of the emissions are from visitors. The largest single source of GHG emissions was visitor travel in the park. Looking only at the emissions from park operations, purchased electricity and emissions associated with transportation 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, RICH 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.

	Stormwater Runoff	Vulnerability Assessment	Education
2014 Action Plan	Research potential activities that might be carried out at our city units to reduce runoff (using outcomes as education/outreach topics).	Work with park staff and WASO experts to develop a vulnerability assessment of park natural and cultural resources.	<p>Train employees on sustainability (i.e. what the park is doing) and climate change, etc. This can include brainstorming with interpreters about CFP Interpretive message.</p> <p>Outreach: Develop an email to park staff about Sustainability webpage; Identify useful ways to keep green procurement on the radar of all purchasers.</p>

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RESOURCES

The Environmental Management 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.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within RICH, we are demonstrating the organization's commitment and efforts to improve environmental performance as well as raising awareness and encouraging dialogue about the organization's environmental policies, programs, and achievements;. RICH has improved communication amongst employees through annual park-wide training sessions and a quarterly newsletter that highlights sustainability topics within the parks and greater region. The newsletter is emailed to all employees and posted on the park's SharePoint site.

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 RICH. We hope that visitors will check back in with us and see how we progress as our program continues to evolve!



View across Beaverdam Creek

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