Parks Committed to Federal Green Challenge Goals

Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA) are actively participating in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Federal Green Challenge. The Federal Green Challenge is an initiative which challenges federal agencies throughout the country to “lead by example” by reducing the environmental impacts of the federal government. Kicking-off the challenge, PORE and GOGA commits to improvement goals of at least 5% per year in a minimum two of the six target areas—waste, electronics, purchasing, energy, water, and transportation (at least one of the selected target areas must be waste electronics, or purchasing). PORE has committed to an annual minimum of 5% reduction in landfill waste generation and energy consumption. GOGA has committed to an annual minimum of 5% reduction in water consumption, energy consumption, and landfill waste generation. The parks are working to attain their goals through sustainability and climate change action initiatives, stakeholder collaboration, education programs, and innovative projects. In addition to the individual goals of each participating agency, the participating federal community has pledged to implement the exclusive purchasing of 100% recycled content paper.

There are 27 active National Park Service units participating in the Federal Green Challenge. Of those 27 units, 21 are within the Pacific West Region.

Benefits of joining the Federal Green Challenge include networking with other federal agencies to share sustainability successes and challenges, taking advantage of EPA’s technical assistance in reaching sustainability goals, a platform to demonstrate innovative techniques for lowering the federal government’s carbon footprint, and regional and national recognition.

For more information and to join the Federal Green Challenge: http://www.epa.gov/fgc

Green Your Car - Vehicle Maintenance can help reduce your carbon pollution if you: 1) Maintain proper pressure on your tires, this will improve fuel efficiency; 2) Check and replace your air filter regularly; 3) Get regular tune-ups - it’s beneficial for both mileage and emission reduction; 4) Remove non-essential items from your car- the heavier your car is, the more gas is used to move.
Last month the National Park Service released the *Green Parks Plan* which lays out the key components and strategic plans for making our park operations more green and sustainable. The plan involves establishing environmental performance targets, empowering staff, collaborating with stakeholders, and engaging with millions of visitors to support our efforts. The plan focuses on a continuous improvement in energy management, water conservation, fleet and transportation management, waste management, wilderness values, and other sustainability best practices. The plan can be downloaded here: [http://www.nps.gov/greenparksplan/](http://www.nps.gov/greenparksplan/)

9 Strategic Goals (from *Green Parks Plan*)

1) Continuously Improve Environmental Performance:

2) Be Climate Friendly and Climate Ready

3) Be Energy Smart

4) Be Water Wise

5) Green Our Rides

6) Buy Green and Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

7) Preserve Outdoor Values

8) Adopt Best Practices

9) Foster Sustainability Beyond Our Boundaries

Key 2010-2011 statistics:

- **2.6 billion** gallons of water consumed in national parks every year.
- **48** National Park Service buildings certified under the Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.
- **72 Parks** that account for 75 percent of the National Park Service’s total annual energy consumption.
- **15,000** U.S. households that, on average, consume as much energy annually (1.4 million MMBTU) as the entire National Park Service.
- **$44 million** average annual energy costs for the National Park Service.
- **280 million** annual visits to national parks and opportunities to demonstrate sustainable operations.

NPS Call to Action Goal #23: **GO GREEN**

Reduce the NPS carbon footprint and showcase the value of renewable energy to the public by doubling, over 2009 levels, the amount of renewable energy generated within parks and used by park facilities.
Earthweek Photos 2012

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
As long as I live, I’ll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I’ll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I’ll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.” – John Muir