A Few Green Points.

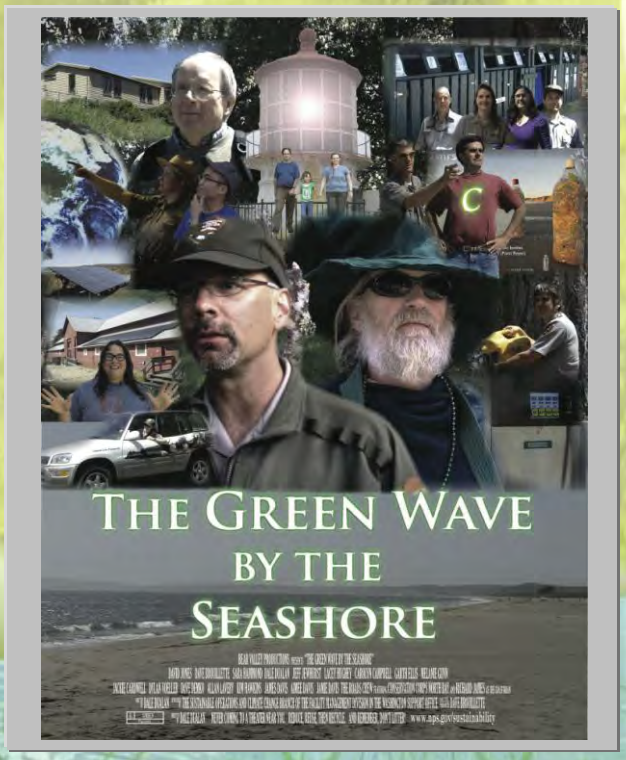
Sustainability Newsletter

Annual Seashore Breakfast Zeroes in on Waste

For the fourth consecutive year, Point Reyes National Seashore has organized the annual all-employee Sunrise Breakfast to be a zero-waste-to-landfill event. Through the stewardship efforts spearheaded by Park Ranger Loretta Farley, the park has continued the use of reusable plates, utensils, and mugs instead of disposable paper and plastic alternatives. Food waste was collected for composting and extra food was donated to the West Marin Community Resource Center in Point Reyes Station. Plates, utensils, mugs were provided by Point Reyes Nation, a local organization that supplies items and equipment for event hosting as well as other services in the West Marin community. As a Climate Friendly Park, our efforts to divert and reduce the park's waste stream through increased recycling efforts and waste management will help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and resulting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Green Wave Hits the Seashore

The Sustainable Operations and Climate Change (SOCC) branch of the Park Facility Management Division in the Washington Support Office recently invited all parks to participate in the Park Service's first annual "My Green Park Video Contest." Through this unique opportunity, Point Reyes has created a short five-minute film showcasing some of our many green practices and accomplishments including our biodiesel fueling station, electric vehicles, solar panels, and others. The short film titled, "The Green Wave by the Seashore," was produced by SCA Intern Dale Dualan and features some of our very own staff. The contest winners will be announced via a variety of media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, InsideNPS, nps.gov, and the soon to be released **My Green Parks** intranet site (to be launched in early summer). The video is located in **P:\Sustainability\Green Park Video**.



Office Recycling

By Daryl Martinelli
Building Custodian

Items that should be recycled:

- **Plastic:** beverage bottles, containers, cups marked with symbols 1-7.
- **Aluminum:** cans, trays, foil, tin cans
- **Glass:** bottles and jars with clean metal lids
- **Paper:** newspaper, magazines, catalogs, household mail, brown wrapping paper, white, and colored office paper
- **Cardboard:** all. You MUST flatten all cardboard, not the custodial person.

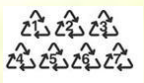
****No paper, cardboard, or glass items with foodstuffs or residue will be recycled. They must be put directly into standard trash containers. Our collection company will not accept any recyclables containing food residue. The entire recycle container will NOT be collected until food containing items have been removed. In addition, the collection company will not collect un-flattened cardboard.**

Collection containers are located in your kitchen area, downstairs of the Administration building, and at the recycling bin station near Roads and Trails.

And as a reminder, we have been finding **too many recyclable items in the office trashcans and park dumpsters.** Please remind your staff and co-workers of the importance of our recycling program for the park.

Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

Daryl



UNIVERSAL WASTE COLLECTION SITE
Located at the Buildings and Utilities Garage (POC: Ken Taylor x5921)
For the following work-related items:
-aerosol cans (for paints/solvents) -batteries -CFLs/fluorescent bulbs
-E-waste (w/property tags contact Aimee Davis) -mercury-containing objects

Think before you throw away. Can the item be reused? Can it be recycled?

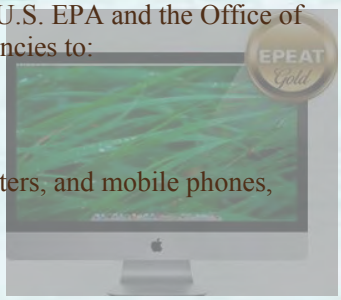
Biodegradable vs. Compostable: What's the difference?

- Anything compostable is biodegradable, but anything biodegradable is not necessarily compostable.
- "Biodegradable" has a broader definition- anything that can be broken down/decomposed by other living organisms (e.g. plants, animals, food, etc. are biodegradable) while "compostable" includes biodegradability but more specifically for the purposes of making compost, which is done generally under controlled conditions.
- Some items that are biodegradable but not necessarily compostable include meat, dairy, human/cat/dog feces etc.
- When it comes to items labeled "biodegradable" such as some of today's plant-based bioplastic trash/grocery bags, eating utensils, etc., look for the word "compostable" as it will more than likely include U.S. Composting Council and U.S. FDA certification as a legitimate compostable item, whether you compost at home or commercially.
- Most items with "biodegradable" claims are intended for landfills, to reduce landfill stress by reducing in mass. However, methane, a more potent greenhouse gas, is still made in the break-down process.
- Be aware, while most compostable plastics do actually break down in the composting process, most of this break down may take a long while and is very much dependent on your composting method and performance. Today's compostable bioplastics are mainly intended for large scale municipal and commercial compost facilities. However if you can get your home compost pile hot enough, around 140°F, it could help speed the break down process much greater.
- Any bioplastic items labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable" does not mean these items can get thrown on the ground, in the bushes, or in the creek. These man-made items could still cause harm to wildlife and habitat if littered. Please dispose of any waste properly!

What is the Federal Electronics Challenge?

The Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) is a partnership managed by the U.S. EPA and the Office of Federal Environmental Executive that encourages federal facilities and agencies to:

- Purchase greener electronic products.
- Reduce impacts of electronic products during use.
- Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.



The purchasing, use, and disposition of electronics such as computers, printers, and mobile phones, has significant environmental impacts. Electronic equipment may:

- Contain toxic constituents.
- Consume significant energy during use.
- Present complex challenges when disposed of.

These characteristics present opportunities and responsibilities in managing electronic products to reduce the environmental impacts associated with each phase of the electronics life-cycle:

- Acquisition and procurement
- Operation and maintenance
- End-of-life management

In FY2010, 100% of all computer desktops, laptops, and monitors purchased, leased, or acquired for Point Reyes were EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) registered. 100% of all printers purchased, leased, or acquired met at least three positive FEC Key Environmental Attributes.

Renew Computers is an e-waste recycler located at 446 Dubois St. San Rafael, right across from Jackson's Hardware Store. Offers free drop-off for electronic waste. Accepts TVs, VCRs, computers, desktops, laptops, cables, cell phones, and other electronic devices. They do not accept microwaves, toasters, lamps, or wooden speakers. Items are not shipped overseas and are recycled locally.

Electric Vehicle Types: A Quick Guide

Source: femp.energy.gov/training

BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)	Most common EV we think of. Propelled by electric motor only. Powered by batteries. These batteries are charged by plugging into the grid and from regenerative breaking.
LSEV (Low Speed Electric Vehicle)	Pure electric. Similar to battery electric vehicles, but limited to streets with speed limits less than 35 mph. Top speed limited to 25 miles per hour. Recharges to a standard outlet. LSEV electricity may be counted in fleet alternative fuel use reporting.
HEV (Hybrid Electric Vehicle)	-Propelled by both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor. Batteries are powered by energy recovered during regenerative breaking. Recovered energy to assists in improving overall vehicle fuel efficiency. **-Two types: parallel** (e.g. Honda Insight and Civic) and **parallel/series** (e.g. Toyota Prius and Ford Escape). Parallel/series hybrids are solely powered by the electric motor at slow speeds and short distances. Parallel hybrids are more effective at using excess power from the internal combustion engine to charge the battery. Parallel hybrids are more effective at highway speeds while parallel/series hybrids are more effective at city driving or stop-and-go conditions.
PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle)	-Combination of a hybrid electric vehicle and a battery electric vehicle. Car is fueled partially by electricity from plugging in like a BEV and powered partially by an internal combustion engine like a HEV. **-Two types: parallel/series** (e.g. Toyota Prius) and **series** (Chevy Volt). Parallel/series operate similar to regular hybrid, except more electricity is stored in the batteries. Series powered solely by the electric motor w/ internal combustion engine operating as a generator when battery is running low.




Trails Crew Handle Tasks at Hand

Below are some shots of the trails crew in action, utilizing some of their hand tools to minimize disturbance for the protection of our critically endangered Northern Spotted Owl. It is important for the vitality of our pristine wilderness and native habitats to reduce our human impact as much as possible. Enjoy a trail this summer and remember to leave no trace behind! Thanks, Trails Crew!

Point Reyes NS Earth Day Poster

QUARTERLY CHALLENGE

For our last quarter, let's try to reduce our waste stream to the landfill as much as possible. Last fiscal year, we hauled 278 tons to the landfill, which totaled a cost of almost $20,000 (excluding fuel and environmental costs). We are currently at 166 tons. Our municipal waste diversion rate jumped from a low 9.33% in FY2009 to 23.85% in FY2010. Executive Order 13514 requires all agencies to divert at least 50% of non-hazardous solid waste by FY2013. Let's keep the waste down, reduce when you can, reuse as much as you can, and recycle your cans!

Upcoming Webinar

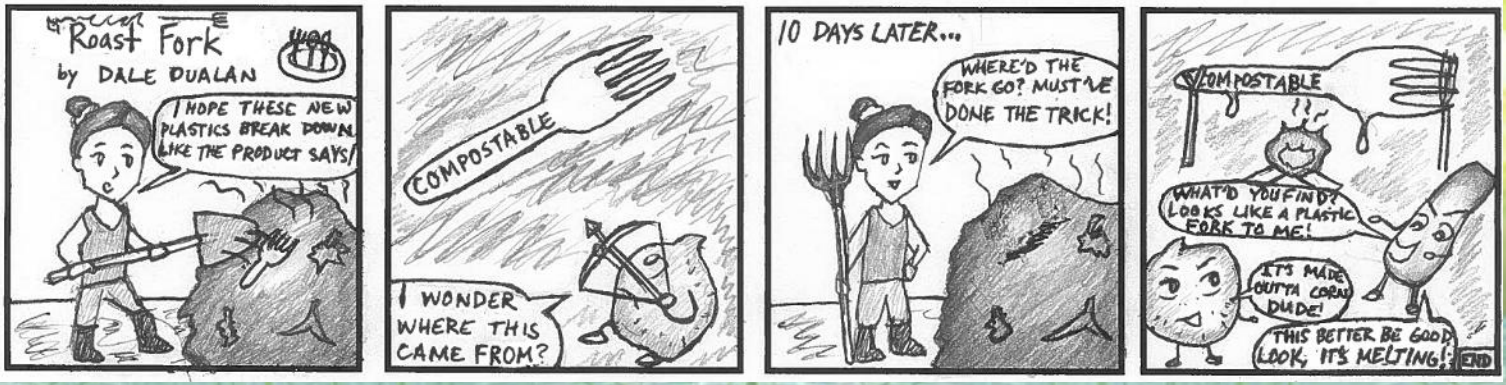
Deep Savings in Existing Buildings: Using Case Studies in Our Search for Success

When: Thursday June 30th, 11:30am-1pm

To register visit: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/634343990

Learn from some of the nation's leading experts why existing buildings represent one of the market's biggest opportunities for energy savings.

Hosted by: New Buildings Institute, Rocky Mountain Institute, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory



If you have any questions, stories, topics you'd like to suggest or contribute, feel free to contact Dale Dualan at x5942 (email: Dale_Dualan@partner.nps.gov) or Sara Hammond x5165 (email: Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)