



FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS ACTION PLAN

2015

INTRODUCTION

As a participant in the National Park Service (NPS) Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) program, Fort Smith National Historic Site (FOSM) 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, FOSM has conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, led a virtual climate change and sustainability educational workshop, and set climate change mitigation and GHG emission reduction goals, integrating all of these actions into the park's Modified Environmental Management System (MEMS).



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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

FOSM is committed to protecting and preserving its natural, cultural, and archeological resources through environmental stewardship as mandated by the National Park Service Organic Act and the park's enabling legislation. This commitment includes best uses and management of 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.

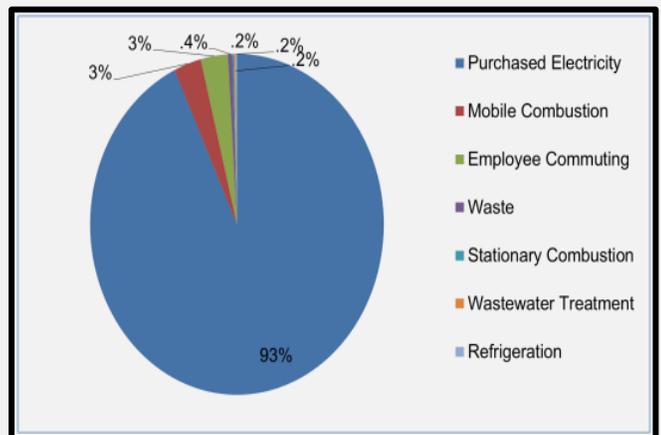
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prior to holding the CFP workshop, FOSM had already started to embark on our sustainability journey by embedding sustainability actions into park operations. As part of these efforts, FOSM has taken a number of actions which have reduced our environmental impact. For example, since 2010, these actions have helped to reduce the park's overall electricity consumption by 28%.

Sustainability Concern	Completed Actions
GHG Emissions	<i>Installed and operate a geothermal HVAC system to cool and heat the park's visitor center since 2000</i>
Energy & Water	<i>Utilize electric work utility vehicles for in-park transportation purposes</i>
	<i>Replaced a majority of visitor center lighting with energy efficient LED lighting, including the Second Jail exhibit area which has reduced electrical consumption by 20,000 kWh annually</i>
	<i>Replaced old windows in administrative and interpretive office areas of visitor center</i>
Waste	<i>Implemented extensive recycling program for park employees and visitors</i>
	<i>Developed Integrated Solid Waste Alternatives Plan (ISWAP) to improve on park's already significant recycling and solid waste management program</i>
Education/Communication	<i>Held the first NPS service wide Climate Friendly Park virtual webinar workshop</i>
	<i>Conducted park wide seminars for employees on sustainability practices while at home, commuting to work, and while at work</i>
	<i>Developed interpretive programming on the importance of preserving indigenous trees and plants as part of protecting the park's natural resources</i>
Water	<i>Significantly reduced parking lot area lawn irrigation</i>

BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE

FOSM developed a greenhouse gas inventory using the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool. Nearly 100% of the park's emissions are from park operations since the park has no roads for visitor use. The largest single source of GHG emissions was purchased electricity, which accounted for 93% of total park emissions (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, FOSM has developed a number of goals. To help meet these goals, the park will develop annual actions and track them through MEMS. The first year of those actions are listed below. We will continue to chart our progress against the goals annually and refine our actions as part of the plan.

	GHG Emissions	Climate Change Response	Education
Goal	Reduce GHG emissions by 10% from baseline year of 2010 by 2016	Reduce energy use by 15% by 2016	Educate 500 visitors about climate change & sustainability practices by 2016
2015 Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue reduction or, if possible, elimination of irrigation in parking lot lawn area. Implement actions, such as increased visitor recycling opportunities on park grounds, within FOSM's recently developed Integrated Solid Waste Alternatives Plan (ISWAP). Continue utilizing the green purchasing SOP developed at the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace visitor center HVAC units with improved energy efficiency units by FY15. Continue developing and prioritizing actions and projects, such as the retrofit of existing parking lot lights to LED. Install solar lighting around park trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create park programming and TGO's that highlight issues of sustainability and environmental preservation. Create interpretive media handouts for the public that highlight the park's green initiatives and how this knowledge can be used in a practical approach within people's homes.

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, tracks 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. The small size and limited available time of the park’s “Green Team” presents challenges in making progress toward CFP and sustainability actions. However, with the help of additional staff members and the park management’s environmental commitment, FOSM is sure to make future progress in meeting sustainability and climate change goals.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

By improving communication within FOSM, we are developing an atmosphere that provides guidance and clarity within our climate friendly planning while instilling ownership and support in accomplishing goals and initiatives. FOSM has improved communication amongst employees through employee “Green Team” update meetings, park-wide initiatives on recycling responsibilities, raised awareness of carbon emission impacts both at home and commuting to work, and continues to foster a work culture that champions green initiatives and effective environmental stewardship. Sharing this growing knowledge is both an interagency endeavor and a growing partnership with other local cultural institutions. Through our knowledge and planning, the Fort Smith National Historic Site: learns from the mistakes of the past, takes positive action in the present, and through these actions hopes to ensure a better future for not only the park, but so that future generations can enjoy the resources unimpaired for years to come.



CONCLUSION

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

CONTACTS

Climate Friendly Parks Program
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Website: www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks

Fort Smith National Historic Site
Website: www.nps.gov/fosm

By identifying a greenhouse gas reduction goal, climate change response/sustainability actions, and outreach initiatives related to sustainability and climate change and sustainability topics, Fort Smith National Historic Site is an official members of the Climate Friendly Parks Program. For more information about the program, please visit the CFP website or contact the CFP team.

SHAWN NORTON

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Date: 2014.12.15 10:26:04 -0500

CFP National Representative Date

Leonardo L. Munoz 12/16/2014

CFP Regional Representative Date

Rosi Conrad 12/10/14

Park Superintendent Date