



A Few Green Points



Point Reyes National Seashore Monthly Sustainability Newsletter

September 2012, Issue 9

100 Percent Green Power

Beginning July 2012, Point Reyes National Seashore has opted to purchase 100% of their electricity from Marin Clean Energy (MCE). MCE is a program under the Marin Energy Authority (MEA) which purchases and sells electricity from renewable energy plants (wind, solar, biomass, hydro) located in the states of Washington, Oregon and California. MCE is currently working on a project to build a 1 megawatt solar carport in Marin County. Additionally, MCE recently signed a contract to build the largest solar project in Marin County, scheduled to be on-line in the fall of 2012. The 972 kilowatt, 5,000 solar panel system will be located at the San Rafael Airport. This project is being financed 50% by the Bank of Marin and 50% by local businessman Joe Shekou. Designed by local developer based in San Rafael, REP Energy, the project is being built by a local company based in Muir Beach, Synapse Electric, and will result in approximately 25 local jobs over a 3 month period.



Solar panels seen here on top of the RCA building in Bolinas.

MCE does not replace Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). MCE only replaces PG&E's charge

for the procurement of electricity, also known as generation. Billing, electricity delivery, and power line maintenance is still provided by PG&E. MCE has two products: Light Green and Deep Green. The Light Green product sources electricity half from renewable sources, and half from conventional electricity sources. The Deep Green product sources 100% electricity from renewable sources.

MCE is available to all electrical customers in the county of Marin. However, one may

choose whether or not they would like to participate in MCE. State law mandates that MCE operate as an opt out program, which gives consumers the power to decide who they want as their energy provider. MCE is self-funded and does not use any tax dollars or public funds, and MEA's Board of Directors is comprised of elected city and county officials.

If you are considering Marin Clean Energy and/or have questions, please call Sara Hammond (415) 205-8740

Annual BBQ Achieves Zero-Waste

For the second year in a row, Point Reyes National Seashore has promoted a zero-waste goal for its annual Volunteer Appreciation barbecue. Last year only one trash bag to the landfill was produced for an event that hosts nearly four hundred guests including volunteers, park staff, park partners, families, and friends. This year, with nearly the same number in attendance, the Seashore ramped up its zero waste effort, producing no waste to the landfill. Everything used at the event was reused, recycled, or composted from the food scraps and dining utensils, to beverage containers and plastic packaging.



All resources from the bbq recovered through composting and recycling.

The success of this effort was accomplished with thorough planning, communication, and collaboration. PORE provided biobased-compostable dining ware and recyclable alternatives while communicating its goal to all event attendees. All guests were also encouraged to bring their own reusable dining ware to the event. Bins designated for compost and recycling were placed throughout the picnic area with waste collection efforts led by park staff. With collaboration and assistance

from Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Conservation Corps North Bay, the Seashore was able to compost four hundred pounds of compostable waste and recycle all beverage containers.

The barbecue, held every summer at the Bear Valley Grove in Point Reyes, celebrates the dedicated volunteers for their commitment and service to the Seashore. By accomplishing this year's goal of zero-waste, the park looks to continue, improve, and maintain this effort as an ongoing tradition for all future park events.

September is National Wilderness Month!

The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Link: www.lnt.org

Impact Grant “Rain n’ Worms” Project

Point Reyes was one of several National Parks to receive a 2011 Impact Grant from the National Park Foundation. The grant is designed to provide a small amount of additional funding to help parks develop and implement innovative projects in areas of sustainability, conservation, and preservation. Point Reyes’ grant-funded “Rain n’ Worms” project intends to address composting, waste reduction, weed management, and water conservation through a vermicomposting (worm composting) and rain harvesting system. The vermicomposting system, constructed by Facility Maintenance staff, will consist of five closed bins containing local “red wigglers” (or scientific name: *Eisenia fetida*) commonly used for composting. These bins will provide composting for staff food waste and will also be used to experiment the composting of invasive weeds such as cape ivy. On the other side of the project, the rain harvesting system will look to catch rain off of the roof of the Buildings and Utilities building and into an above ground 500 gallon rain harvesting tank that will be connected to a “first flush” diverter, debris separator and the building’s gutters-downspout diverter. This system will provide some rain water for the generating compost and for native plants stored in the park’s nursery during dryer seasons. Both the vermicomposting and rain harvesting systems will be managed and maintained at the park’s native plant nursery located behind the Buildings and Utilities building. The project has enabled the expansion of the park staff’s composting program with new food-waste designated collection bins located in park headquarter buildings. End-uses for finished compost may include park landscape and gardening, propagation projects and experiments, and others. Demonstrational, experimental, and educational programs will look to stem from this project.

For more details or questions on the project, please contact Dale Dualan at (415) 464-5100 x5942 or email Dale_Dualan@nps.gov.



(Clockwise from top left): Compost collection bins for food waste; Custodian Daryl Martinelli feeding compost to a worm bin; Worm bin modules designed and built by Scott Worley/John Tipton/Dale Dualan; 500 gallon tank installed to catch rain from B&U rooftop

For more info on vermicomposting, visit:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Worms/WormFact.htm>



Upcoming Events & Trainings

- September 15 – Coastal Cleanup Day at Point Reyes National Seashore. Where: Drakes Beach. When 10am-1pm. For volunteering, contact Kim Hawkins at 415-464-5130.
- September 20 – Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)- Funding Solar Projects at Federal Agencies: Mechanisms and Selection Criteria (Online Training)
To register click link:
<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/763981862>



Monthly Challenge

Think globally, buy locally.

Buying locally saves energy and carbon emissions by eliminating the need for costly transportation.



Have any questions? Comments? Or a story or topic you’d like to suggest or contribute? Feel free to contact Dale Dualan at 415-464-5100 x5942 (email: Dale_Dualan@nps.gov) or Sara Hammond at 415-464-5165 (email: Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)