

Appendix B: Federal Agency Profiles

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

I. Organization

The Associate Director for Park Planning, Facilities and Lands, who reports directly to the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), is in charge of buying, designing, building and maintaining property. This Directorate has almost a \$1 billion budget. This Associate Director chairs the Design Board, which includes other Associate Directors and engineers, and reviews all budget items worth more than \$500,000. NPS receives more than over \$100 million for design and construction annually from Congress. NPS also has a National Leadership Council comprised of Regional and Associate Directors. NPS is highly decentralized, with park supervisors having some independent management authority.

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II. Baseline Data

The NPS includes 385 parks located on more than 80 billion acres of land.

III. Policies and Resources

NPS first began implementing the concept of sustainable design in 1993, with its first sustainable design charrette in the Virgin Islands. At the time, NPS developed a number of resources and encouraged numerous national parks to implement greening activities. This program was reinvigorated in 1999, as NPS management committed to the concept of “environmental leadership,” which includes sustainable design.

Today, as part of the NPS Design Board’s review process, all construction projects valued at more than \$500,000 must submit a LEED™ checklist, although they don’t have to register for LEED certification, depending on cost feasibility. NPS is developing a broad service-wide policy directive on environmental leadership, including concepts of greening and sustainability. A series of greening workshops are being held at interested parks. To allow for corporate and other partners to support green operations, outreach and training, NPS also is starting a Green Parks Partnership Program through the Park Foundation.

- Memorandum of Understanding Between the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior (4/27/99) <<http://www.nps.gov/renew/mou.htm>>:
 - Inaugurates a joint “Green Energy Parks” program
- A98(2450): (7/13/99) Environmental Leadership (Director, NPS)
<<http://www.nps.gov/renew/leadership.htm>>

- “Environmental leadership” includes full compliance with environmental laws, going beyond compliance with pollution prevention and sustainability, and educating NPS staff, concessionaires and visitors on these concepts.
- This commitment is to be codified in an implementation plan, performance goals, management policies, guidance, and environmental audits.

IV. Results and Case Studies

- NPS has an older website at <<http://www.nps.gov/renew>> and a newer website at <<http://www.nps.gov/sustain>>. Both contain extensive case studies.
- There are also extensive case studies of two buildings at Zion National Park at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/highperformance/case_studies>.