

We are on the web...
www.glacierparkinc.com



Green Elephant Recycle Team

If you want to join our Green Elephant Recycle Team or have a suggestion for the next newsletter, stop by and chat with your Recycle Coordinator or email us at info@greenelephantmontana.com

Carbon Emissions Calculator

THE CCF LIGHT BULB

One 20 watt CCF bulb is equivalent to one standard 75 watt incandescent bulb. If we multiply that by 758 hotel rooms @ 3 three bulbs each, over just a 100 day season, that equates to a savings of

- \$22,963 over 100 days
- 225,126 less kilowatt hours used
- 355,699 lbs. reduced CO2 Emissions

Or put another way, these reductions would translate into these comparable savings:

- 350,284 miles by automobile
- 18,310 gallons of gasoline
- 375.2 barrels of oil
- 6,721 large Propane BBQ tanks
- 36.66 acres of rain forest
- 55.63 tons of waste
- Taking 29.54 vehicles off the road

Carbon Emissions Calculator courtesy of Mitch Burgard

The threat of Climate Change to Glacier National Park

For years now, estimates of the effects of Climate Change and/or Global Warming have been predicting the rapid deterioration of the remaining Glaciers in our beautiful Park and around the world.

Take your pick of the agencies studying the effects of climate change on our world today. The American Meteorological Association, The US Geological Survey, the US government's multi-agency Global Change Research Program, the United Nations led Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, University departments and a multitude of other agencies are among hundreds of others that have been closely watching and predicting what is to come. Agencies closer to home include the Rocky

Mountain Climate Organization, National Resource Defense Council and the National Park Service itself.

In October of 2009, Glacier National Park was added to a list of the world's 25 National Parks most vulnerable to human effects on climate change.

Some say even an immediate turn around to our lax Environmental policies, the outrageous use of fossil fuels and the abundant emission of other heat trapping pollutants, may not be timely enough to save our Glaciers. Let's hope science is wrong.

Yet the rate of global warming over the last several decades is alarming. The average global increase of 2 degrees F* since 1950 is unprecedented in our lifetime and is only expected to

increase over the next decade. Some studies estimate we could increase another 2 degrees in the next 20 years alone. These polar ice caps & Glaciers preserve the majority of the world's fresh water supply and as it melts away, will not be replenished in our lifetime. The rate at which our Glaciers are melting should be just as troubling.

Most predictions today place the demise of the Glaciers here in our Park between 20 to 25 years.

However there is a slight ray of hope. A couple of these stubborn Glaciers are still regenerating. Though most are shrinking, rapidly, we can still hold hope that at least a Glacier or two may remain for future generations to visit...



GPI... Helping sustain the environment through our actions.

GPI 2010 - Glacier's Centennial Season

This is an exciting time for Glacier. The Centennial season brings a time of reflection, change and renewed enthusiasm for the challenges that lie ahead. In order to efficiently lead Glacier into the next century as responsible Stewards of this beautiful environment, GPI maintains an EMS (Environmental Management System) of established practices, parameters and goals that each of us is expected to comply with. Your help is key in reaching these environmental goals.

The philosophies of Sustainability, eco-friendly purchasing, the use of Organically & locally grown products, the reduction of waste at its source, limiting energy & water usage and following reuse & recycle measures are several of the practices we have incorporated so far.

GPI is consulting with an Environmental Audit company, a leader in the field to determine our best course of action to reach our goal of becoming ISO certified. This commitment places GPI among the top concessioners sup-

porting the National Park Service. With our commitment and the help of everyone of you, we will reach these goals.

Inside this newsletter you will read about our past and current initiatives under our Environmental Management Plan. Find out what exactly GPI is working on and how you can help.

One division of Eco Sense is our Recycle Team. This is something we encourage everyone to be a part of. Each of our Great Lodges now has a recycle coordinator to oversee our recycle efforts on property and they are also your activity coordinators for the summer. Stop by the transportation desk and introduce yourself. If you are interested in joining our "Green Ele-



GREEN ELEPHANT RECYCLE TEAM

Members of our Environmental Team were meeting this winter and started tossing around ideas to promote awareness of our recycle program - we wanted to give this division a name or catch phrase, if you will. One that would enable people to relate visually just how much material we actually recycle each summer. Something fun and recognizable... to educate everyone about our efforts. We had suggestions ranging from the inanimate to the spectacular... eventually we

decided what better way to visualize 97.5 tons than a room full of elephants? As a matter of fact—we recycled the equivalent of 9.2 elephants last year alone. Our elephants have no affiliation with any political party. Rather, we thought what better way to symbolize the efforts of conservation, sustainability & going green, then by thinking big and going green. So Green Elephants it is!

Get involved this summer and stay informed on the GPI Environmental Management Plan. Take a minute to chat with a member of the recycle team and be sure to follow us into the future by following the environmental link on our website www.glacierparkinc.com or by checking out one of these links: Greenelephantmt.wordpress.com Greenelephantmontana.com or email us: info@greenelephantmontana.com

Phant" Recycle Team or just want to plan an activity like soccer, softball, group hikes, Frisbee golf, or movie night they will be your contact. Chat with them and find out how you can get a "Green Elephant" T-shirt.

One of the goals of the recycle team this summer is to increase the amount of materials we recycle. We look to set a new record by recycling more aluminum, tin, paper, cardboard and plastics than ever before. Over the course of four and a half months during the 2009 summer, we recycled over 90,000 pounds of material. So how does that match up in the world of green elephants?

Are you curious about the "Green Elephant" yet? You can read more about it below.

We look forward to another successful season here in Glacier and moving another year forward with our Environmental Management Plan. Thank you to each of you who volunteer your time to help us reach our goals this season. Enjoy the Centennial summer!

The "GREEN" GLOSSARY

Recycling—So what is it, exactly? A broad definition is: The act of processing used materials to create new materials.

Sustainability—Incorporating practices that have as little impact on environmental systems as possible while creating a means of prolonged if not indefinite use of resources and energies.

Renewable Energies— these are energies generated from natural resources such as wind, sunlight, rain, tides and geo-thermal heat. These are renewable through nature, which means they are self replenishing.

Global Warming - is a term used to describe an increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. It

is most commonly used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of human action through increased emissions of greenhouse gases, though can also be attributed to natural causes.

Climate Change - Associated more so with the natural cycle of Earth's changing weather and temperature patterns, it is often mistakenly used interchangeably with Global Warming which can be confusing.

Greenhouse Gas - Any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation and traps heat



Green Tips

Travel Green! Look for hotels that encourage guests to use less water or energy. Hang your towels up and reuse them - use your sheets for two nights or longer during your stay and select local and organic meals from the menu.

Bag it! Help protect the environment when you shop by using reusable hemp shopping bags instead of plastic.

Leave your car at home twice a week. Reduce your carbon footprint by carpooling or walking. Just eliminating two days a week from your commute can cut greenhouse emissions by up to 1,600 lbs. per year.

Taking a bath requires about 70 gallons of water - showering uses only 10 - 25 gallons. Add a water efficient shower head!

within the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), ozone (O₃) and methane (CH₄) The reduction of their emissions reduces our carbon footprint.

Carbon Footprint - The tangible impact someone's activities will have on the environment, measured in units of carbon dioxide produced.

Green Elephant Montana - the GPI recycle team, created in 2008 and renamed this winter. Play a part and join us.

Eco Sense - GPI's Environmental Management Program—established to reduce our impact on our environment and create policies and awareness that help protect, preserve and conserve the integrity of our environment..

Green/Bulk Purchasing

Most of the products we now use are made of biodegradable materials.

Our purchasing manager has spent the last several years researching food & beverage products, hotel amenities, paper products & packaging materials, logistics, costs and practicality.

These current products are a reflection of our reduce waste at it's source policy and correlate precisely with the parameters we have discussed for the ISO 14001 certification.

No longer do we use plastic food containers, plastic plate ware or silverware, plastic lotion & soap bottles or non recycled paper products.

This practice will reduce the need for disposal and/or recycling and limit how much we contribute to landfills, garbage dumps and CO₂ emission at recycling plants.

GPI'S ECO SENSE INITIATIVES

As a seasonal operation, we have a brief 4 month window to operate. Even with these limits, we set our sights higher in 2010. Here are some of the initiatives you can expect to see this year...

- The ISO 14001 Certification is the most widely recognized Environmental Management system ever realized. The commitment we have made, when achieved will place GPI among the top concessioners supporting the National Park Service.
- Our new 5in1 Commercial Washer at the Central Laundry in East Glacier. In 2009 alone this machine reduced water usage by an astounding 470,000 gallons.
- Our Red Bus and Warehouse Fleet of 33 Reds and 5 Warehouse trucks are equipped with a Bi-Fuel system operating on gasoline and propane... limiting our dependency on gasoline, reducing harmful emissions and most importantly our carbon footprint.
- All Hotel Lounges have converted to the Keg Beverage System that eliminate the use of thousands of glass bottles each summer. Every 20 glass bottles recycled = 3 lbs. of carbon emissions. You do the math.
- Our restaurants now use only Biodegradable items and Spudware. Spudware now replaces all "plastic ware" in our restaurants and kitchens. We use products made *only* from potato, corn and other recycled products. Items such as: napkins, forks, knives & spoons, straws, carry out boxes, beverage cups, soufflé cups that hold your salad dressings or dipping sauces, etc.
- Our menu's now include organic local wines & beers as well as organic beef and other locally grown products.
- Our Housekeeping departments use Eco-Friendly cleaning products such as ... Green Seal Certified Betco Green Earth products, Glass Cleaner and Peroxide Cleaner and our daily disinfectants are greener every year.
- All 758 Hotel rooms are now stocked with BeeKind environmentally friendly amenities made from organic extracts and also reduce plastic packaging waste by 92%. A portion of all proceeds are given to fund Bee pollination research & recovery.
- Each of our 758 Hotel rooms are illuminated by multiple CCF light bulbs that reduce energy and carbon out-



put by some 60%. Check out the carbon calculator on page 4 to see the math on this...

- The Golden Memory Down alternative pillows on every bed are made from 100% recycled plastic bottle materials.
- The paper products in our offices, warehouse kitchens, retail outlets, restaurants & facilities are made with at least 30% recycled material and soy based inks.
- Our Agri-Card Green Earth Hotel Room Keys are made of biodegradable corn and other plant materials.
- Replacing oil based paints with Latex has eliminated hazardous waste which was damaging to ground water.
- Our engineering department collects and recycles used batteries.
 - Our Engineering & Maintenance Manager has obtained certifications in pool maintenance and Water Facility operations, which encompass the entire town of East Glacier.
 - We have placed recycle bins in all guest and employee housing & work areas.
- We are trying to phase out the use and sale of all plastic bottle beverages.
- This newsletter is another simple outlet for information. You can also check out our website www.glacierparkinc.com for current updates.

By involving guests and employees in our environmental plan, educating & creating awareness and asking for your participation we will reach these goals and limit our overall impact. Help us make a greener world, starting here in Glacier.

Did you know?

- April 22, 2010 was the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day!