



The Green Team...

Glacier Park Inc.

GPI Green Watch Program ...

Our mission is this: GPI is committed to a proactive and continually improving approach to sustainable environmental pollution prevention practices and principles in all of our management decisions, actions and ethics. GPI will communicate our Policy and Objectives to employees, associates, community and all interested parties and solicit their input as well as offer assistance to meet their goals. GPI is dedi-

cated to operating our hospitality services in compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations and US National Park Service requirements in order to protect, preserve and conserve the integrity of the natural, cultural, historical and human environments of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park for this and future generations.

The **Green Watch Program** was created as the foundation for the implementation of GPI's "pollution prevention at its source" climate friendly practices. The **Green Management Team** has been formed to oversee and audit these focus areas: **Waste Reduction** (hazardous waste and recy-

cling) **Green Purchasing** and **Energy & Water Conservation**.

To date GPI has expanded on these primary focus area's through continuing action plans and implementing two sub committees - the **Green Waste Team** and the **Green Energy Team**.

The **Green Waste Team** will implement and facilitate Waste Reduction, Recycling and Purchasing.

The **Green Energy Team** will implement and facilitate Energy and Water Conservation.

Together with the support of everyone involved, we look forward to working towards continually improving our environmental stewardship !



How green is Green ?

Green Seal Certified - Beyond compliance

Our mission is to exceed our goals and expectations and we are working hard to ensure this happens. We are simply not satisfied with compliance and are pushing the envelope with proactive measures including becoming **Green Seal Certified** by identifying and promoting environmentally conscious

products and services. GPI has made considerable investments and improvements to these ends with initiatives such as the Alternative Fuel Efficient Red Bus Fleet, Energy Efficient Light Bulbs in all hotels, Environmentally Conscious recycled product based Pil-

lows, Aluminum & Cardboard recycling, Naturally Produced products and Organically and/or Locally grown Food & Beverage products.

We look forward to continuing our efforts and toward improving the environment for all to enjoy !

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Special points of interest:

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Sustainability & Recycling

Recycling makes all the headlines these days, but in actuality it is only a small part in the scope of environmental sustainability. Recycling is a helpful secondary measure - but what can we do before it gets to that point? We can be Proactive !What about Reducing Consumption, Energy Efficiency, Reusable products and Waste Reduction. What about more stringent regulations on factories that emit toxins into the air making items such as plastics. What about Climate Change ? It's evident the world is in a warming period and the it is fact that all the products humanity produces do indeed

consume energy and thereby contribute to Climate Change. So isn't it time we look into proactive, sustainable initiatives, not just recycling !

Sustainability can be confusing with everyone's spin on it today. But what it really comes down to is this: **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.**



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So while we attempt to meet our current needs it is imperative that we also consider future generations and adjust our practices and policies so we don't "compromise" their abilities of survival.

Recycling helps, but it's not the miracle "save-all" of the human race. Get informed on Sustainability. Check out: <http://ecoliteracy.org>, www.sustain.newsladder.net or just google environmental sustainability and educate yourself. It's not too late to learn - or change your ways !

Reducing our Footprint...

What is commonly referred to as a Carbon Footprint is the effect we have on the environment.

More specifically... A **carbon footprint** is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gasses produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide".

If you visit the Nature Conservancy website at www.nature.org there is an interesting test you can take to measure what effect you as an individual have.

Reducing a carbon footprint

The carbon footprint can be efficiently and effectively reduced by applying the following steps:

Life Cycle Assessment- (LCA) to accurately determine the current carbon footprint

Identification of hot-spots in terms of energy consumption and associated CO₂ -emissions

Where possible, changing to another electricity company to switch to buying electricity from renewable sources (from

wind turbines, solar panels or hydro electrical plants -or- from nuclear power plants.

Optimization of energy efficiency and, thus, reduction of CO₂-emissions and reduction of other GHG emissions contributed from production processes

Identification of solutions to neutralize the CO₂ emissions that cannot be eliminated by energy saving measures. This last step includes carbon offsetting; investment in projects that aim at the reducing of CO₂ emissions, for instance tree planting

Climate Change vs. Global Warming

The debate of today is most definitely Climate Change or Global Warming ?

Climate change is a general term used to explain significant changes from one climatic condition to another, such as temperature or precipitation levels of the Earth over time. In some cases, it has been used synonymously with the term "Global Warming." Scientists tend to use the term in the wider sense to also include natural changes in Climate. Climate Change is happening at

different rates and in different ways but mostly due to the production of heat-trapping gasses like carbon dioxide from vehicles, factories and deforestation.

Global warming is a term used to describe an increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. It is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists generally agree that the Earth's

surface has warmed by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past 140 years.

So is it fair to ask which term more accurately describes the conditions we see today? Probably not. Both have to do with the warming of the earth and climate change. Is it due to human activity the last 100 years, or is it the cycle of the Earth beyond our control?

Only time will tell. But in the meantime, we can all be more responsible in our daily practices.

Startling Facts - Plastics & The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Have you ever thrown a small piece of trash out your window, something as simple as a gum wrapper? Maybe you left something behind on the beach or in the park after a picnic? That cup or plastic bag that blew away. Probably thought "hey, it's no big deal". Right? Well think again, friend.

Let me introduce you to the North Pacific Gyre. Part way between the coasts of California and Hawaii, about 1000 miles west of California the center of several massive ocean currents thousands of miles wide, encircle and swirl and gather in this epicenter known as the North Pacific Gyre. Also home to what is known as the **Eastern Garbage Patch** or **Great Pacific Garbage Patch**. An insidious, horrific mass of debris: plastic, trash, clothing, fishing nets and other discarded man made items. Items that each of us are guilty of carelessly tossing away, unaware or unconcerned of the side effects.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is enormous. It covers an area as much as one and a half times the size of the entire United States. It is estimated to be a depth of between 100 and 300 feet. It is made up mostly of plastics. Plastics do not biodegrade! After World War II, plastic production skyrocketed. That means for over 60 years now, billions upon billions of man made, plastic prod-

ucts have been accumulating on earth and in the oceans. They may take years to reach the Garbage Patch, but once they are there, they stay there, sometimes for decades. Floating, absorbing pollutants like PCB's and DDT's. They also release chemical additives and plasticizers into the ocean which accumulate into the tissues of marine organisms that eventually make their way up the food chain into the foods that we eat. It is said that in the Northern Pacific Gyre, plastics outweigh zooplankton by a factor of 6 to 1. Fish and seabirds mistake these plastic particles for food to the point that an estimated 90% of Laysan Albatross chick carcasses contain plastics in their stomach contents.

But it's not just plastics. Other consequences exist, such as Hazardous Waste & Toxins. And most of us have heard over the years of the huge fishnets that drift, ensnaring, endangering and killing fish, turtles, dolphins and other marine life. There are also garbage disposals, sewers and drainpipes that feed right into our oceans. Rivers and streams that seem inconsequential also collect debris that eventually washes out into the oceans. And we haven't even mentioned Lakes.

But we are not alone. Off the coast of

Japan there is the Great Western Garbage Patch. Not as much is known about this area yet, because the research has been centered on the Eastern Garbage Patch. But it's there!

But when you consider that our Earth is made up of over 70% Water, the ramifications can be frightening. Did you know that one gallon of motor oil poured into the ground will contaminate up to 1 million gallons of fresh ground water. That's not a typo! 97% of Earth's water supply is Salt Water. That means only 3% is Fresh Water and over half of that is frozen in Glaciers and Polar Icecaps. Yes, fresh water is a renewable resource, but as we all know, Earth's fresh water levels are steadily declining. So with population levels quickly increasing at a rate of about 50 million per year, and fresh water supplies steadily decreasing, exactly what do you think is going to happen in the decades to come? It can take centuries to replenish our current Fresh Groundwater levels, 3/4 of which are non renewable in a human life span.

Exactly what can we do? There are lots of things, but it starts with knowledge.

Educate yourself. Check out websites such as wikipedia.org, eco-pros.com, nature.org or dnrc.mt.gov

The Green Glossary !

Kyoto Protocol - An international agreement between 137 (and growing) developed countries to work toward reducing greenhouse gas and emissions that cause climate change. It was originally passed in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and is set to expire in 2012; the United States has signed but not ratified the agreement, meaning it is non binding in the US.

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

bon footprint is beneficial to the environment, which is why there are calculators to measure and reduce these footprints.

Greenhouse Gas - Any gas that absorbs infra-red radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse Gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) and the reduction of their emissions also reduces our carbon footprint.

Non Renewable Resource - A resource that is **not** capable of being

naturally restored or replenished and is thus in limited supply. It is most commonly used to describe Energy sources such as coal and oil. The use of these materials and energy sources leads to depletion of the Earth's reserves.

Renewable Resource - A resource that **is** capable of being naturally restored or replenished, such as a tree. It is most commonly used to describe alternative forms of energy such as solar and wind power, which can be continually reproduced using natural resources.

Glacier Park Inc.

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
E-mail: someone@example.com

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Inside Story Headline

It begins with Education and Awareness !

Goal # 4 for instance is : To facilitate an educational, organizational and cooperative culture of environmental stewardship, and encourage participation and commitment by employees, guests, associate contractors, vendors, stakeholders and local communities including the Blackfeet Nation, Parks Canada and the National Park Service



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