



FOREST SERVICE GREEN TEAMS & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS NOVEMBER 2007

What is a Green Team?

Green Teams are dedicated groups of employees, regardless of discipline or organizational level, which facilitate the pragmatic implementation of sustainable operations principles on their unit. Green teams range from the informal – a few employees working together to increase recycling opportunities for themselves and their community, to the formal – a group specifically chartered by leadership to promote and foster sustainable operations that reduce a unit’s environmental footprint. Successful green teams are very place-based, that is the issues they choose to work on are meaningful to their specific community and geographic location. What is sustainable in one location may be very different than in another location because the natural resources, culture and economic situations are all different. While many green teams begin as an internal effort, often they grow to include members of the local community or other state, federal, or local agencies so that sustainable operations efforts can become successful on a larger more community or ecosystem connected basis.

Most place-based green teams choose to work across many environmental footprint areas (water conservation, energy conservation/renewable energy, waste prevention/recycling, green purchasing, fleet/transportation, sustainable leadership). However, some green teams have been created with membership across geographic units to specifically to foster dialog about the sustainable operations opportunities within a particular topic area such as recreation or energy management.