



Greening Fire Success Stories

Sustainability and Fire, Aviation, and Management (FAM)

1. Recycling Vendor Pilot: Oregon, Whitewater Fire, 2017

In 2017, the Whitewater Fire on the Willamette National Forest in Oregon piloted a new recycling program. The incident management team, with support from Forest leadership, hired a recycling contractor that set up all of the waste and recycling collection for the basecamp, prepared materials for processing, and generated statistics to measure results. This approach proved successful and repeatable. Public Information staff helped generate a video that documents this process and how it can work on other incidents. [To view the video, click here.](#)

2. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Fire Camp Energy Assessments: Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon, 2016 - 2017

A team led by the U.S. Department of Energy's NREL conducted assessments at six fires during the 2016 and 2017 fire seasons as part of ongoing efforts by USFS to reduce energy use, water use, and waste generation and implement renewable energy technologies. The Type I and II incidents included: Cold Springs and Hayden Pass fires (Colorado, 2016) and the Highline, Boundary, Millis, and Whitewater fires (Arizona and Oregon, 2017). At these fires NREL/FS staff visited the Incident Command Post (ICP), base camps, and a spike camp. NREL staff observed several examples of current best practices that could be broadly replicated and identified additional potential opportunities for energy, water, and waste reduction. A final report outlining the findings is scheduled to be released in Fall 2018.

3. Sustainable Operations Coordinator Pilot Program: Oregon, Collier Butte Fire, 2015

As a part of the Greening Fire Team's ongoing efforts, a team member was able to visit the Collier Butte Fire camp in 2015 at Gold Beach, Oregon, to help implement sustainable practices. Some the practices implemented included improvements to recycling, food composting, waste diversion, and reduction of bottled water usage. The work that was implemented resulted in the development of a draft sustainability coordinator checklist for use on incidents. The checklist and final pilot program report can be found at the Greening Fire Team SharePoint site along with other background information and resources. [To visit the internal USFS's Greening Fire Team site, click here.](#)

4. Waste to Energy Statistics, Oregon, Redmond Cache, Ongoing

The Northwest Incident Support Cache located in Redmond, OR has partnered with a local company that converts waste to energy via incineration and hydrothermal power generation. In 2017 the Cache collected, from all large fires within Region 6, materials that could not otherwise be recycled and diverted from the landfill. The preapproved items were then collected and given to the waste energy facility. A total of 76,369 pounds of materials were diverted and converted to electric power supplied to the local power grid.

5. Interagency Website for Sustainable Operations: NWCG, 2018

The Logistics sub-committee website nested within the NWCG broader site will house future information related to the National Greening Fire effort. Please bookmark the following site and visit it into the future for updated information as it becomes available: [To visit the National Greening Fire site, click here.](#)



The National Greening Fire Team met in Bend, Oregon Feb 28-29th to develop best management practices and the 2018 action plan.