



Energy SmartPARKS



NPS

Glowing from new energy-efficient lighting, the Washington Monument shines on the Reflecting Pool

The National Park Service (NPS) has joined with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to establish an innovative partnership called **Energy SmartPARKS**. This partnership will showcase sustainable energy practices in national parks and inspire a green energy future for America. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to advance the goals of **Energy SmartPARKS** with a combined initial investment of \$1 million.

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| Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showcase sustainable energy best practices and further the NPS environmental leadership mission• Spark a green energy movement in America | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a new Energy SmartPARKS fund to ensure that the NPS continues to lead, innovate and inspire a green energy future |
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| Action Steps and Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deploy renewable and efficient energy technologies throughout the national park system• Teach park visitors about the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency• Reduce overall energy consumption and quantify savings• Reduce carbon emissions in all aspects of park operations• Develop and expand partnerships with the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to further the benefits and goals of Energy SmartPARKS |
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Projects

The NPS has proposed green energy projects across the national park system for 2009. For future years, the NPS will develop and prioritize park projects that are suitable for federal funding with support from park friends groups or other donors. Examples include:

- Lamping retrofit
- Electric Utility Vehicles
- Solar photovoltaic and lighting installations
- Meter and thermostat installation
- A green lighting manual for NPS staff
- Window and furnace replacements
- Wind power feasibility study
- Upgrade lighting systems
- Conduct energy audit

Two recent projects illustrate the exciting possibilities of **Energy SmartPARKS** in the future: the exterior relighting of both the White House and the Washington Monument. With ground-breaking technology that improved the exterior illumination, these national icons now look beautiful while being energy efficient at the same time. Although the official assessment of the White House relighting project by the DOE has not yet been completed, early estimates anticipate a stunning energy reduction. The Washington Monument relighting project resulted in a 27% energy reduction with a cut of 36 tons per year in carbon emissions according to the official DOE assessment.

Funding Sources

Various traditional and alternative funding sources will be used:

- DOI and DOE provided an initial \$1 million investment
- Department leaders will identify long-term, sustainable funding
- Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESCs)
- Federal contract mechanisms to finance energy

efficiency construction in parks

- Follow the Bureau of Land Management example of using an ESCO to implement energy saving projects across a region
- NPS will look to bundle parks or regions to attract ESCOs or UESCs
- DOI, DOE, and NPS will develop new and expand existing partnership with the private, non-profit, an academic sectors

The National Park Service is developing an **Energy SmartPARKS** website, in partnership with DOI and DOE, to showcase its commitment to a green energy future in America.

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www.nps.gov/energy

