



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 then 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.

USDA’s Forest Service has been a leader in this area. Below is a current list of USDA Green Teams (which is constantly growing):

- USDA Headquarters Complex
- USDA Forest Service Headquarters Office
- USDA Headquarters Cafeteria
- Pikes Peak Ranger District
- Bighorn National Forest
- Medicine Bow Routt National Forest
- San Juan Public Lands Unit (BLM/USFS)
- Pagosa Ranger District
- Bessey Nursery – Nebraska National Forest
- Rocky Mountain Region Regional Office
- Rocky Mountain Region Energy Management Team (USFS, BLM, NREL)
- Sustainable Ops and Recreation
- Mult-Regional Green Purchasing Team
- Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee – Sustainable Operations Subcommittee
- Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Northeastern Area / Northern Research Station
- Pacific Southwest Research Station / Region 5

Pacific Northwest Station
Lassen National Forest
Willamette NF
Siuslaw NF
Mt. Hood National Forest
Northern Region Regional Office
Intermountain Region Regional Office
Tongass National Forest
Chippewa National Forest
Superior National Forest
R2, R1, R3, R4, BLM, EPA, RMRS Sustainable Operations Board of Directors
R9 Sustainability Board
R6 Sustainability Board
Green Mountain National Forest
International Institute of Tropical Forestry