

National Park Service
2011 Environmental Achievement Awards

Winner

Crissy Field Center, Partner
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
The New Crissy Field Center

The Crissy Field Center, located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is an environmental education center that connects the diverse population of the San Francisco Bay Area to local environmental issues. In partnership with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the National Park Service, and the Presidio Trust, the Crissy Field Center encourages new generations to become bold leaders for thriving parks, healthier communities, and a more environmentally just society.

In January 2009, the Center decided to move its operations to a new structure. The new 7,200-square-foot facility was completed and occupied in 2010, and is a model of sustainability for program participants and park visitors alike. Highlights of this innovative project include:

- Cool membrane roof that reflects heat away from the building to reduce energy requirements;
- Low- E windows, extended roof overhangs, and clerestory windows that provide both shading and natural light to reduce artificial lighting;
- Daylight and occupancy sensors to regulate use of the electric lights to optimize lighting levels and reduce energy use;
- Reclaimed and newly milled redwood siding and EcoClad siding made from bamboo fibers and recycled paper;
- Rainwater capture system that funnels rainwater to a cistern which is then filtered and supplied to the toilets and urinals;
- Cabinetry made from FSC Certified maple and wheat board;
- Exterior landscaped with native plants;
- An advanced energy monitoring system that allows for real-time feedback on the building operations;
- The Beach Hut Café is constructed with sustainable and reused materials, and uses mostly local, organic food in its menu;
- The new building has become a centerpiece of the Center's education program. Every student and visitor who comes to the Center is told about the sustainability attributes, and a team of 17 youth were trained to be “Green Building Tour Guides;”
- Center employees actively participated in the design of the new facility, and continue to give feedback to the building operators on how the sustainability features are functioning;
- Staff are designated to track waste diversion, energy usage, and product purchases; and
- Extensive outreach to visitors of the Crissy Field Center shows them the possibilities that can be replicated in their own lives and their own homes.

Since this project utilized a pre-engineered “green” building, it has a high potential for use by partners at other parks.