

September 23, 2010

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Northeast Region recognized for environmental efforts

The Northeast Region has received national awards recognizing outstanding work in the area of environmental leadership and sustainability. In the 2010 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Leadership Awards, this region received four awards and three honorable mentions. These awards highlight the achievements of Northeast Region employees in the areas of Energy, Environmental Management Systems, Green Purchasing and Recycling.

Frank Drauszewski, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts), received a 2010 Individual Environmental Leadership Award for Environmental Management Systems. Drauszewski was instrumental in acquiring a photovoltaic solar energy system that is environmentally friendly and sustainable in comparison to other forms of energy generation. **Parker River NWR** also received a U.S. Department of Energy 2010 Federal Energy and Water Management Award. The refuge was one of two Department of Interior facilities to be honored in Multiple Category Awards to Small Groups. The Parker River NWR Small Group includes Dale Aubin, Tony Leger, Frank Drauszewski, Teri Neyhart, and Graham Taylor.

James Britt, Refuge Law Enforcement at Wallkill NWR (New Jersey), received a 2010 Individual Environmental Leadership Award for Green Purchasing. He advocated using green ammunition for both practice and qualification. The resulting benefit to the environment is the elimination of lead contamination at the firearms ranges where refuge law enforcement officers practice firearms and qualifications training.

The Visitor Center and Administrative Headquarters at Parker River NWR received a 2010 Facility/Office Environmental Leadership Award for Energy. This sustainably built visitor center and administrative headquarters is now the location of the region's largest solar power system. The solar power system significantly adds to the Service's renewable energy production. Parker River NWR's new 32.48 kilowatt photovoltaic array reduced its carbon footprint while generating clean, renewable energy.

The **Northeast Regional Office Green Team** (Massachusetts) received a 2010 Facility/Office Environmental Leadership Award for Environmental Management Systems. The Regional Office is a leased facility, and the Green Team works with the building manager and the owner to achieve environmental, energy and transportation improvements.

Pamela Carota, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex, received a 2010 Environmental Leadership Award Honorable Mention in Green Purchasing. She developed a spreadsheet to track the purchasing of environmentally friendly products. The refuge complex purchases many green office products.

Great Bay NWR (New Hampshire) received a 2010 Environmental Leadership Award Honorable Mention in Recycling. Great Bay NWR worked with volunteers to recycle 15 tons of steel, aluminum and copper from refuge buildings to be demolished.

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program received a 2010 Environmental Leadership Award Honorable Mention in Environmental Management Systems. The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program worked with Efficiency Maine to identify and implement energy efficiency measures at their leased facility. They had an energy audit, changed lighting, installed water heater timers and improved their building envelope. This reduced their energy use by almost 900 kilowatt hours in a four-month period.

The region's engineering and contracting staff provide technical assistance and support field stations in their commitment to lead by example on environmental sustainability. As a conservation agency, Service employees can be proud not only of their work, but also the way that they do their work by reducing, reusing and recycling. The region is actively improving its energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. Because of these efforts, the Northeast Region is helping lead the Service in reducing the agency's carbon footprint and being part of the solution to climate change.

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