

# Why Should I Care About Sustainability?

## IT'S THE FOREST SERVICE MISSION

Sustainability is at the heart of the Forest Service (FS) mission—“to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.” We share this responsibility —it’s up to you to ensure this ethic of sustainability is part of all Forest Service operations.

## IT MAKES SENSE

Being sustainable makes sense. It can improve health, increase safety, and save money. For example, driving less reduces air pollution, decreases wear and tear on local roads, and saves money. Who doesn’t want to improve the quality of the air they breathe? Replacing the use of toxic materials with more sustainable options is safer for staff, reduces hazardous waste, and reduces potentially expensive liability for the Forest Service. We all benefit from cleaner, healthier products.

## IT'S FOR THE COMMUNITY

As a neighbor and member of the community, the Forest Service has a responsibility to be a good steward of the environment. Any air pollution or waste generated by Forest Service operations impacts the local community. As a community leader, the example set by the Forest Service can help create a more sustainable region that is healthier for everyone - ourselves, our kids, and our shared future.

## IT'S REQUIRED!

That’s right; several executive orders and laws require Federal agencies to reduce their environmental footprint by conserving energy and water, reducing waste, increasing recycling, and purchasing greener products. All staff need to do their part to help the Forest Service comply with these directives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT THE [FS Sustainable Operations Website](#).

***SUSTAINABILITY means to “create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling of social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.”***

-Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance, October 5, 2009



Understanding the impacts of global climate change on water, vegetation, wildlife, recreation, and subsistence activities informs how the Forest Service manages these resources. Every employee’s contribution to sustainable operations and to reducing our environmental footprint supports the FS mission to sustain these resources for current and future generations.