

Community Focus Statement A: Preserve the desert ecosystem, its natural beauty, and the community's harmonious relationship with the environment.

Action Statement A.5: Promote smart, sustainable, low-impact growth and development.

A5

Benchmark: Community collaborates with the Joshua Tree National Park Association (JTNPA) to regularly organize and maintain a variety of resource conservation programs and provide sustainability education materials to the local community. Under leadership, community supports the nonprofit organization in collaboration with organizations like the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and works with local, regional, and state agencies to identify resources and obtain feedback for continuing training, conservation programs, and sustainability efforts in the community.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$250–\$1,000



Death Valley National Park and its partners are creating new strategies in response to an uncertain future in the face of a changing climate. From developing action plans that plot a course toward a “greener” National Park System to building a LEED certified visitor center, Death Valley National Park is incorporating climate-friendly behavior into its park operations, facility management, and communications. For more information, visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/deva/learn/nature/environmentalfactors.htm>.

Photo source: [Shane Burkhardt](#).

Sustainability is the continued protection of human health and the environment while fostering economic prosperity and societal well-being. In response to the growing need for a better understanding of how sustainability trends can impact growth and development in Joshua Tree, the community needs to promote smart and sustainable strategies to enable prosperity within available natural limits. Sustainability programs can promote resource conservation and advance community awareness about the natural environment and the actions everyone can take to do their part to conserve.

These programs can be provided by the local organizations and partner agencies who host regular workshops or nature walks and offer educational programming and outdoor activities related to natural species. General information, issues, regulations, and upcoming events related to environmental sustainability can be displayed on informational materials and distributed in newsletters. Educational topics include

land management in a sustainable manner, drought and state and locally mandated water-use restrictions, indoor and outdoor water conservation, seasonal water use, water quality and usage regulations, solid waste disposal and diversion, and simple ways to achieve a healthier and cleaner environment. This information would encourage businesses and residents across Joshua Tree to protect and conserve resources through solid waste reduction, pollution prevention, energy conservation, and water conservation measures.

The Renewable Energy Action Team prepared the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) to help provide effective protection and conservation of desert ecosystems while allowing for the appropriate development of renewable energy projects. Because the DRECP includes goals that prevent development in the Eagle Mountain region, an area surrounded on three sides by Joshua Tree National Park, the boundary protections in the park have been strengthened. Additional partnerships with organizations such as the National Parks Conservation Association and the Joshua Tree National Park Association can offer training, conservation and education programs, and environmental education materials to the local community.

Action:	Action Leader:	Timeline:	Resources:
1. Hold a meeting to create a Community Committee	Champion	Month 1	Joshua Tree National Park Association, Our Work http://www.joshuatree.org/our-work/ National Parks Conservation Association, Our Advocacy https://www.npca.org/advocacy National Park Service, Death Valley National Park Environmental Factors, https://www.nps.gov/deva/learn/nature/environmentalfactors.htm Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, http://www.drecp.org/
2. Engage JTNPA members to focus efforts on sustainability and resource conservation programs that can help the community.	Committee	Month 2	
3. Select a member to serve as sustainability program lead to provide leadership to the committee and as contact person for related topics and issues.	Committee	Month2	
4. Develop a list of community issues and regulations that relate to low impact growth, restoration, and managing land in a sustainable manner (i.e., indoor and outdoor water conservation, solid waste reduction, development of renewable solar projects).	Committee	Month 3	
5. Develop key partnerships with local, regional, and state agencies for obtaining knowledge on legislative and community information, resources and feedback for training, and programs on an ongoing basis.	Committee with Joshua Tree National Park Association, with support and knowledge from National Parks Conservation Association, other local, regional, and state agencies	Months 3 – 5	
6. Continue partnerships and relationships with community and agency members to promote knowledge and awareness on sustainability and resource conservation.	Joshua Tree National Park Association, with support and knowledge from National Parks Conservation Association, other local, regional, and state agencies	On-going	