Greening Fire Team Ambassador Program

What is the “Greening Fire Team” and What is Meant by “Greening Fire”?
The National Greening Fire Team (GFT) is a small team of employees from across the nation chartered under Washington Office Fire & Aviation Management. The GFT mission is to integrate sustainability best management practices (BMPs) on incidents and within the fire community. We do this by focusing on reducing waste, conserving energy and deploying more renewable energy, conserving water, as well as providing outreach and education related to conserving natural and financial resources on fires.

What is a Greening Fire Team (GFT) Ambassador?
GFT Ambassadors are individuals with a desire to help promote and advance sustainability BMPs in incident operations. These interagency individuals act as champions to further the GFT mission by participating in the GFT program at the “Level of Involvement” (LOI) that suits their interests, passions, and available time/resources. Ambassadors receive, share, and act on important communications about increasing awareness and aligning actions towards sustainably conducting fire management operations.

What are the Expectations of a GFT Ambassador?
Ambassadors are asked to provide feedback/input, assist the GFT with implementing sustainability goals, and share lessons learned; depending on the LOI selected, they may be in a position to develop content. Ambassadors are asked to implement two (2) action items within two (2) Footprint Areas for the target LOI (e.g., If an Ambassador pledges to the Bronze LOI, they might aim to accomplish one (1) Bronze action item in Energy Conservation and one (1) Bronze action item in Water Conservation). An Ambassador’s engagement is designed to be flexible, depending on the individual’s desire and capacity to get involved.

Ambassadors agree, at a minimum, to the following three (3) actions:
1) Receive and distribute key GFT program information with incident stakeholders in their network and/or other employees and partners who may benefit;
2) Follow proper chains of command, including routing communications about actions undertaken as an Ambassador through local Public Affairs Officers; and
3) Annually (at a minimum), complete a brief survey administered by the GFT to document accomplishments towards the LOIs. Survey responses will serve to share and showcase sustainability efforts and accomplishments and may inform out-year deliverables.

How Can GFT Ambassadors Provide Support?
GFT Ambassadors may choose from several actions that suit their interests and abilities. These actions are divided into four (4) LOI categories (i.e., Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) that reflect the degree of time and energy required. Actions are tied to GFT Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), ensuring alignment with the GFT Program of Work.

Bronze actions typically require the least amount of time and energy. For example, the most basic and essential “Bronze” action for a GFT Ambassador includes receiving and sharing GFT communications with fellow incident personnel and/or home unit employees.

Silver and Gold actions are increasingly involved, with Platinum actions requiring the largest investment of time and effort. For example, a GFT Ambassador may choose to implement a
Platinum action that involves taking the lead to implement a wildfire sustainability pilot project.

GFT Ambassadors independently choose the number of actions they can implement each year. Ambassadors may choose to complete all actions within a LOI, complete a few actions from each LOI, or seek permission from the GFT to pursue actions not previously identified.

What Are the LOIs and Potential Actions Associated with Each LOI?

NOTE: A sampling of the full set of LOI actions is included below. We expect this list to grow, and we look forward to hearing about what you are doing to improve sustainability in incident management. If a GFT Ambassador wishes to pursue an action not on this list, follow proper chains of command plus email the GFT to ensure the action is aligned with our mission.

Bronze
- Visit the National GFT website to become knowledgeable about what the GFT is doing to promote sustainable BMPs on incidents.
- Attend GFT webinars, encourage others to attend GFT webinars, and share GFT webinar information with relevant contacts (e.g., Incident Business Specialists, Logistics Section Chiefs, Purchasing Agents, Fire Management Officers, etc.).
- Share GFT official correspondence/emails/bulletins with relevant contacts.

Silver
- Become familiar with options for utilizing the On-site Incident Recycling Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) covering the Southwest, Northern and Southern California, and Northwest Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) or Incident Recycling Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (if outside of these four GACCs).
- Contact the Program and Contracting Leads assigned to the four (4) GACCs targeted in the On-site Incident Recycling BPA to learn more about how to apply this resource.
- Post (in coordination with Public Affairs) GFT signage on bulletin boards and make mention of sustainable operations in incident management during all employee meetings, morning briefings, etc.
- Order, or advocate for ordering, “green” materials, equipment, and services when feasible (e.g., LED lighting equipment, solar electric/thermal handwash stations, etc.).
- While on an incident, model sustainable behaviors by doing at least two of the following: 1) use re-usable water bottles whenever possible (and avoid single-use plastic); 2) instead of sports drinks in plastic bottles, try electrolyte powder in your re-usable container; 3) use rechargeable batteries in radios; 4) participate in the fire camp recycling program (read the labels and keep the recyclables clean); 5) reduce unnecessary vehicle washing and abatement and/or utilize gray water (if possible); 6) reduce unnecessary vehicle idling whenever possible.

Gold
- Recruit other GFT Ambassadors.
- Educate your Unit’s Leadership Team about the GFT and our mission, if they are not already knowledgeable.
- Coordinate with and educate local Green Team/Sustainable Operations Committees about options to reduce the environmental impact of incident business operations.
- Provide feedback to the GFT about how to improve sustainable efforts associated with incident business by sending a message to the GFT Shared Inbox.
- If ordered as a resource on a wildfire incident, advocate for sustainability practices by applying knowledge, helping the IMT implement sustainability practices, communicating
the “triple bottom line” benefits of incident sustainability measures to the IMT, and reporting successes or barriers to implementing sustainability practices to GFT.

○ When applicable, seek permission from a GFT member to attend monthly GFT Team Meetings for information presentation and sharing.

**Platinum**

○ Become a GFT Point of Contact for ambassadors at the local unit, if multiple exist.

○ If on an IMT, advocate for and work towards the development of a Wildfire Sustainability Plan with the Logistics section that aligns with the GFT program. Share completed plans with GFT.

○ Assist in developing strategies to effectively manage compostable/food waste.

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**Levels of Involvement**

- **Bronze**
  - Actions require smaller investment of time and energy. Focus is on raising awareness, plus information synthesis and delivery.

- **Silver**

- **Gold**

- **Platinum**
  - Actions require larger investment of time and energy. Focus is on collaboration and advancing application of deliverables.

**Least Points**

**Most Points**

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**How Do I Sign Up to Become a GFT Ambassador?**

Simple! Receive approval from your supervisor, then contact the GFT via our Shared Inbox and request to join our Ambassador Network. In your email, please provide your “target” LOI and list the action items you plan to complete this Fire Year. If you are uncertain of how you can provide support, the GFT can help you determine a LOI and/or action items on which to focus.

**How Do I Obtain Assistance Accomplishing these Actions?**

The GFT is here to help! We invite you to contact the GFT via our Shared Inbox at any time with your questions/needs, and one of our GFT members will follow up with you. Additionally, the GFT will host Quarterly GFT Ambassador Calls with topics guided by Ambassador interest.

**What are the Benefits of Being a GFT Ambassador?**

In addition to knowing that you are helping to improve sustainability practices in fire management, we suggest that you talk to your supervisor about including your contributions as part of your performance rating (reference FSM 1300, Chapter 10 – Methods of Doing Business).

Additionally, those GFT Ambassadors that earn the most points (note: Bronze action items earn the least points while Platinum action items earn the most). All GFT Ambassadors that complete the annual survey will receive a certificate of appreciation for their commitment.