



## Big Box Stores Go Green

The NPS Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP) receives many questions from concessioners on where to buy environmentally preferable products. For concessioners that shop in suburban or urban areas, there are many brand name stores and options for purchasing environmentally preferable products.

But we know that many concessioners are in remote locations. "Our operation is 150 miles from the nearest store so we do all our shopping at big retailers once every couple months. Is there a way to buy environmentally friendly products without going to several different stores?" That's a good question.

To find out, we did some research to see if buying green could be a one-stop process at big box stores including some that may be in your area such as Costco Wholesale (Costco), Wal-Mart, Office Max, The Home Depot, Lowe's, and Staples. We were pleasantly surprised at the diverse stock of environmentally preferable items available at these stores. Items included electronics, landscaping equipment, office products, household items, foods, and more!

**Electronics and Appliances:** You can find a wide range of energy-efficient electronics and appliances such as televisions, DVD players, and refrigerators at big box stores. When these items are on your shopping list, look for the words "Energy Star®" on the item or its packaging. Energy Star qualified items meet Federal guidelines for energy efficiency and can reduce

your energy consumption in contrast to comparable non-Energy Star qualified items.

**Lighting:** There are many environmentally preferable light bulbs available in big box stores. Compact fluorescent lamps are an energy-efficient choice; one brand claims to save \$93 in energy costs when compared to the lifetime use of a regular 120-watt incandescent bulb. Another environmentally-preferable lighting option is low mercury fluorescent lamps, which use fifteen percent less energy than conventional T12 fluorescent lamps. These lamps are better for the environment because they use less mercury and are more energy efficient.

**Landscaping:** Water timers are available in most home improvement sections. Setting timers to water only during late night or early morning hours minimizes water evaporation which occurs most frequently in the middle of the day. Additional environmentally friendly products in the garden section include yellow jacket traps (that do not trap honeybees, which are important pollinators) and fly traps which do not use pesticides. It is important that concessioners coordinate with park Integrated Pest Management (IPM) staff when identifying and implementing pest control measures.

**Office Products:** Some of the most abundant types of environmentally preferable products available in the office products section of big box stores are paper products such as copy paper and folders. When looking for the environmental attributes of

*(continued on page 3)*



### We were pleasantly surprised...

...at the diverse stock of environmentally preferable items available at these stores.



Electronics



Landscaping Equipment



Office Products



Household Items



Foods



Lighting



Sunset at Joshua Tree National Park in the Mojave Desert, California



GreenLine is an official publication of the National Park Service Concession Program. The newsletter provides a forum in which the NPS can share information with NPS staff and concessioners about the Concession Environmental Management Program, current environmental requirements, and best management practices; it also identifies resources available to improve concessioner environmental performance and highlights success stories.

Guest articles have been reviewed by the NPS Concession Environmental Management Program and, if required, edited in collaboration with the original author.

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## Ask Dr. Ima Park

For this GreenLine Newsletter issue, we ask our in-house expert, Dr. Ima Park, to help us navigate through the confusing world of environmental labeling.

? I've seen several products in stores that appear to be environmentally friendly. Some are labeled "recyclable," others include labels stating they contain "recycled" content, and others are labeled as to containing "post-consumer recycled content." What's the difference?

### Dr. Ima Park:

"Recyclable," "recycled," and "post-consumer recycled content" are all related terms but each has a very specific meaning. Here is a brief explanation of the three terms:

Products that are "recyclable" can, in theory, be reclaimed and the materials returned to manufacturers to make new products. But in reality, what is "recyclable" depends on the recycling facilities available in your area. For example, both glass and aluminum containers are recyclable, but if the facilities in your area take aluminum and not glass, then for you, only aluminum is recyclable. Of course, if you go to another area that has glass and aluminum recycling facilities, then both are recyclable! When purchasing products, it's best to buy those that can be recycled locally.

A label stating that a product is "recycled" can be very misleading. Why? Because it can make consumers think

that the product they're buying is made from materials that were used at least once and then returned to the manufacturer and re-processed into a new product. But this isn't always the case! Products labeled as "recycled" may contain material that was recovered during the manufacturing process (sometimes referred to as "pre-consumer" content) as opposed to material that was recovered from materials recycled by consumers. For example, a paper manufacturer that collects scraps from cutting and sizing envelopes and includes them in the production of new paper can label the resulting product "recycled" even though the paper scraps never left the production warehouse!



Products labeled "post-consumer recycled content" are typically better for the environment than those that are labeled "recycled." That's because post-consumer recycled content products contain material that has been gathered after consumer use and reprocessed into new products. They close the "recycling loop" since consumers use a material, recycle it, and then buy products produced using those same recycled materials. It's important to note that materials can be made of both post-consumer recycled content and pre-consumer recycled content. It is best to strive for the highest levels of post-consumer recycled content in products where feasible.

## Head to the Web for Small Biz Enviro Help

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Small Business Division has created several resources and publications designed to help small businesses, such as concessioners, improve their environmental management. Of particular interest to concessioners may be the following two publications:

- *Practical Guide to Environmental Management for Small Businesses*
- *Documenting Your Environmental Management Plan, a Workbook for Small Businesses*

Both of these publications focus on environmental management systems (EMSs). EMSs are similar to Environmental Management Programs (EMPs). Concessioners awarded Category I and II concession contracts with the NPS are required to develop an EMP. The publi-

cations previously listed, along with concession service-specific EMP guidance from the NPS Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP), can help a concessioner develop an EMP.

The website also hosts other publications covering environmental topic areas ranging from information on the Clean Water Act to management of radon.

### RESOURCES:

To access the EPA publications, go to [www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/pub\\_video/epadocs/b.html](http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/pub_video/epadocs/b.html). To obtain copies of CoEMP concession service-specific EMP guidance, contact the CoEMP.



## Big Box Stores Go Green *(continued from page 1)*

these items, look for the words "post-consumer recycled content," and purchase products that have the greatest amount of post-consumer recycled content. Besides paper, other office products may boast impressive post-consumer recycled content, such as clipboards and hanging folders.

In addition, big box stores carry many types of printer and toner cartridges. These stores may offer to take back your empty printer and toner cartridges for free regardless of where you purchased the cartridge! Some stores go even further and supply you with a complimentary ream of thirty percent post-consumer recycled content paper for returning a used cartridge. The cartridges that are turned in by customers get recycled and made into new cartridges.

**Household Items:** Environmentally preferable household items such as post-consumer recycled content paper towels, napkins, and toilet tissue are usually easy-to-find items. These products contain a wide range of post-consumer recycled content, so try and purchase those with the greatest amount of post-consumer recycled content. Also, look for paper products that are not bleached with chlorine since the bleaching process can release toxic chemicals into the environment.

**Foods:** You can now find a variety of organic and locally grown foods at most big box stores that carry food items. This may include, but is not

limited to, organic and/or locally grown meats, coffee, fruits, vegetables, milk, cheese, and crackers. Purchasing organically and/or locally grown foods not only helps the environment, but also helps to support the local economy.

**Miscellaneous Items:** Other environmentally preferable products are also available throughout big box stores. For example, many now carry environmentally preferable cleaners that are safer for the environment and for your staff. Also, depending on what services your concession operation offers, you may be able to find supplies specific to your operation. One example for concessioners offering fishing services is lead-free split shot sinkers. Opting for lead-free sinkers is preferable since lead can contaminate water, build up in the environment, and cause health problems for wildlife and humans.



As a consumer, you have the ability to influence the types of products being sold by big box stores. Purchase environmentally preferable products so that stores will continue to stock those types of products. If you can't find what you need in the store, consider going online and ordering an environmentally preferable product - big box stores with online stores may have different stock. And if the store where you shop doesn't carry environmentally preferable products, submit a comment card to encourage them to move in that direction!

## Implications of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on Parks and Concessioners

On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Contained within this legislation is Subtitle B - "Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act" (USTCA). The USTCA affects park and concessioner underground storage tanks (USTs) that contain petroleum or certain hazardous substances. Below are some key elements of the USTCA.

**UST Facilities Report.** One of the most immediate implications of the USTCA is a required facilities report. This report requires that all Federal agencies submit information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for USTs located on Federally-managed lands, regardless of who owns or operates the USTs. A request was sent to park concession specialists in May to confirm USTs owned by, or assigned to concessioners. Parks and concessioners should work with each other to gather information on existing USTs including location(s), ownership and operational responsibilities, date of last inspection, and compliance status.

**Inspections.** Parks and concessioners may receive more visits from state inspectors since the USTCA requires state UST inspections at least every three years.

**UST System Operator Requirements.** UST operators will be required to meet state-developed operator requirements.

**UST Fuel Delivery Prohibition.** Starting August 8, 2007, it will be illegal to put a regulated substance, such as petroleum, into a noncompliant tank.

**Groundwater Protection.** States must develop regulations on USTs located within 1,000 feet of community drinking water systems or potable drinking water wells. These regulations will require either:

- Secondary containment for USTs and associated lines; or
- Evidence of UST manufacturer/installer financial responsibility for releases caused by improper manufacturing or installation of USTs.

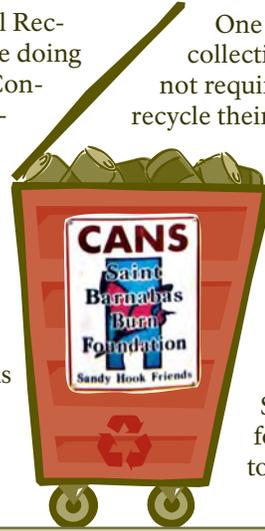
### RESOURCES:

For more information on the Energy Policy Act of 2005, go to [www.epa.gov/OUST/Energy%20Policy%20Act%20Update%203-06.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/OUST/Energy%20Policy%20Act%20Update%203-06.pdf) and click on the link to the new legislation.

## Recycling to Support People and Protect Our Environment

When you recycle an aluminum can in Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, New Jersey (Park), you're doing more than just helping the environment. Thanks to HS Concessions, you're also helping the St. Barnabas Burn Foundation (Foundation), which supports the Burn Unit at New Jersey's St. Barnabas Medical Center.

Ed and Natalie Segall and their family, including daughter Tina Segall Cros and son Scott Segall, own and operate HS Concessions, an operation that has served customers in Sandy Hook, New Jersey since 1962. Fifteen years ago, Ed Segall was severely burned while operating a hot dog stand at a festival being held in the Park. He was rushed to the Burn Unit at St. Barnabas Medical Center where he was given a seven percent chance of surviving. Ever since his incredible recovery, Ed Segall has been supporting the burn unit.



One way that the family supports the burn unit is by collecting aluminum cans. In New Jersey, businesses are not required to return deposits to consumers who wish to recycle their cans. The Segall family collects aluminum cans for recycling and, with the assistance of a local volunteer fire company, transports the cans to a New Jersey recycling center that redeems them by the pound. The money from the return deposits is then donated to the Foundation.

To encourage the Park's 2.4 million annual visitors to participate in the recycling program, the Segall family began placing recycling bins near its food service operations and instructing employees to inform visitors of the recycling opportunity.

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## Living in Green Luxury

Sustainable design is a concept that has quickly gained popularity in recent years. At Yellowstone National Park, Xanterra Parks & Resorts (Xanterra) partnered with the NPS to design and construct two new employee housing units using sustainable design criteria.

Xanterra chose to design and build these employee housing units using the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System®. Based on well-founded scientific standards, the LEED Rating System emphasizes environmental criteria for planning, design, and construction. The houses are the first of any buildings in Montana to receive LEED certification.

Highlights of the completed project include:

### Site Selection

- The housing units are located on Federal land in Gardiner, Montana, that was previously a fuel transfer facility. This brownfield land was remediated by removing old concrete slabs, tin sheds, rusted fuel tanks,

leaking oil drums, and oil-contaminated soils.

### Landscaping

- The property is landscaped with native, drought-resistant plants, eliminating the need for irrigation.

### Building Design

- The houses were designed to maximize passive solar gain by more efficiently capturing winter rays and blocking out summer rays leaving the houses cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

### Construction Waste Management

- Fifty-three percent of construction waste was diverted from disposal through reuse or recycling efforts, including 11,000 pounds of scrap wood; 48,000 pounds of landscape rock; 3,200 pounds of steel; 15,000 pounds of concrete; and 2,100 pounds of cardboard.

### Energy & Water Efficiency

- One hundred percent of the electricity purchased for the homes for 2006-2007 is renewable wind energy.
- An on-site solar photovoltaic array supplies up to 40 percent of the homes' electricity demands.
- All light fixtures are compact fluorescent lamps or fluorescent lamps that consume 70 percent less energy and last 13 times longer than incandescent lights.
- Low-flow showerheads, ultra low-flow faucets, dual flush toilets, and ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances are used throughout the buildings, saving 40 percent of water use over a typical building.

There are four rating levels of LEED certification. They are: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The four rating levels depend on the number of credits accrued in five categories of design: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

### Indoor Air Quality

- All paints, adhesives, glues, and caulks are water-based or contain low volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The carpet emits no VOCs and will be recycled at the end of its useful life.

### Education & Outreach

- During construction, the houses were opened to public tours, forums, and media events to educate visitors and the community. These efforts will continue, even during occupancy of the houses.

### Monitoring

- Residents are required to record and monitor readings from house resource monitors, such as electricity supplied by the grid and solar panels.

Although it is often believed that sustainable buildings cost significantly more than traditional buildings, the final project results indicate that building these homes sustainably was only marginally more expensive.

Xanterra plans to continue its development of sustainably designed buildings in the future. Part of their plan involves working with employees, contractors, vendors, and architects to construct, remodel, and renovate in a more environmentally friendly manner.



### Recycling to Support People and Protect Our Environment

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At first, signage on the recycling bins encouraged visitors to recycle but did not indicate that proceeds would be given to the St. Barnabas Burn Unit, a well-known organization in the area. During that time, few visitors recycled their cans and the receptacles were often used for regular trash, thus contaminating the recycling stream. During this time, employees filled two or three bags with aluminum cans each day.

Eventually the Segalls changed the signs to indicate, in both English and Spanish, that money collected from the cans would be donated to the Foundation. Ed Segall believed, "People have more incentive to do the right thing if the money is going to a charity." He was right. With their new signs, the family found that participation improved, contamination declined, and recycling revenue increased significantly. Employees now collect between 20 and 30 bags of aluminum cans each day.

In addition to setting out recycling bins, employees also pick up cans from the Park's beaches. The employees' collection efforts, plus recycling from visitors, helped the operation collect approximately 150,000 cans in 2005. Although Segall estimates that it costs about \$500 in manpower and materials to collect the cans, he donates the entire gross proceeds to the Foundation.

Despite the impressive recycling rate, 150,000 cans out of an estimated 1 million cans consumed each year are not enough for Ed Segall. His long-term goal is to collect 500,000 cans, which takes into account the fact that some cans are taken home by visitors and others are disposed of outside the Park. To help meet this goal, Segall hopes to collect 300,000 cans in 2006 and donate \$10,000 from recycling funds to the Foundation. To do this, he will increase the number of available recycling receptacles in the Park and is hoping to work with Park staff to introduce a program that will encourage youth to collect recyclable materials from the beach. "We never did these things for the publicity," Ed Segall says. "We did it to give something back to the community and the environment."

### A Big Effort for a Big Bend NP Concessioner

Many national parks are located in remote areas, making even small tasks – like disposing of trash – difficult since landfills can be hundreds of miles away. Such is the case in Big Bend National Park (Park), located in southwest Texas at the United States – Mexico border.

Because it is so remote, the Park maintains one of the few NPS licensed landfills. Preserving the Park's landfill capacity is a major priority for everyone since there are currently no other viable options for disposing of solid waste. Forever Resorts, which operates the Chisos Mountain Lodge to provide food service, lodging, and other visitor services in the Park, has been especially aware of this challenge as it relates to their concession operations.

In 2001, when Forever Resorts started operating in the Park, it immediately began implementing a facility-wide environmental management system (EMS) to reduce its environmental impact and improve operations. As part of its EMS, Forever Resorts introduced a comprehensive recycling program headed by housekeeping manager Rafael Del Campo. Just five years later, Del Campo has successfully executed a program that diverts approximately 40 percent of the concessioner waste from the Park landfill.

To reach this impressive recycling rate, Del Campo and his crew installed recycling bins throughout the operation, including food service, housekeeping, employee housing, and guest room areas. Recycling bins around the concession operation are accompanied by extensive signage in English and Spanish to increase participation by visitors and employees. In addition, employees receive one-on-one training to make sure they understand how the program works.

Forever Resorts' recycling program has encouraged recycling of a wide variety of products for this remote area, including cardboard, white paper, newspaper, aluminum cans, plastic containers, fluorescent lamps, household and vehicle batteries, motor oil, tires, and vegetable oil. In the program's first year, Forever Resorts recycled approximately 16 tons of material. Not surprisingly, the large amount of recyclable materials began to overwhelm the Park's recycling center. Recognizing that the recycling center needed assistance, Forever Resorts began discussions with Park staff on how they could help. Forever Resorts and the Park worked out a unique formal agreement where Forever Resorts employees sort and package materials at the Park recycling center for transport to the recycling facility approximately 225 miles away.

By 2004, Forever Resorts recovered close to 43,000 pounds of material from its operations and contributed over 1,500 employee hours to the Park recycling center. This recycling effort, if continued, is expected to extend the life of the Park's landfill by 30 years.

For Del Campo, this success is only the beginning. Del Campo is now taking his extensive recycling experience to the border town of Ojinaga, Mexico, where he helps train the 40,000 residents to recycle in their schools and homes. Del Campo meets regularly with the town's mayor to help develop a town recycling program which will not only protect the environment but will provide much-needed jobs. For Forever Resorts, it's just part of the company's long-held mission to extend their environmental ethic to help others in support of natural places and communities everywhere.

**In 2005, Forever Resorts received an Honorable Mention from the Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Awards for their recycling success. In 2004, their recycling efforts resulted in close to 43,000 pounds of materials being recycled, including approximately:**

- 1,000 pounds of aluminum;
- 14,000 pounds of cardboard;
- 13,500 pounds of glass;
- 2,500 pounds of plastic; and
- 650 pounds of white paper.



# Don't Let Your 2007 Halloween Be Scary... Update Your SPCC Plan Now!



On February 17, 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plan compliance dates for preparing, amending, and/or implementing SPCC plans. The new deadline for preparing new SPCC plans or updating existing SPCC plans is **October 31, 2007**.

Concessioners required to have an SPCC plan include those who have the potential to discharge petroleum or petroleum-based products to "navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines, . . . or certain natural resources" and who:

- Have the capacity to store over 1,320 gallons of oil aboveground in containers that are 55 gallons or more in capacity; or
- Have 42,000 gallons of oil in underground storage tanks not regulated under 40 CFR 280.

If you are unsure whether your operation's SPCC plan meets regulatory requirements (40 CFR 112), it is recommended that you have a professional engineer review your plan prior to the deadline. Also, discuss with your park concession specialist to confirm whether there are any park-specific issues or requirements that should be addressed either in your plan or the park's SPCC plan.

## RESOURCES:

- EPA Oil Program: [www.epa.gov/oilspill](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill)
- Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP) Assistance Resource: *Understanding Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans*, available at [www.concessions.nps.gov](http://www.concessions.nps.gov); click on "CoEMP" and then "Assistance Resources."

## Breathe Right

Greg Jones, a concessioner in Beautiful National Park, has operated Jones Marina on Lake Belle for the past three years. His employees regularly perform work on Park visitors' boats.

Several weeks ago, Greg received word from Beautiful National Park's concession specialist that his operation would undergo an environmental audit by the NPS Concession Environmental Audit System (CEAS). During the audit site visit, the audit team noted that Greg's employees were using respirators with vapor cartridges and filtering facepieces (commonly referred to as dust masks) but the company didn't have a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). "I thought I was protecting my workers just by giving them respirators but I didn't know that there was more to do to be in compliance," said Greg.

During the audit, Greg learned that OSHA mandates an RPP when employees wear respirators, whether or not wearing them is required for employee safety. Respirators can help protect workers in certain situations, but not in every case. In fact, when used improperly, respirators may actually do more harm than good by allowing hazards to pass through respirator cartridges that are already full or restricting air flow to those with breathing problems such as asthma. That is why having an RPP is important; it will help ensure that proper procedures are in place for training, medical evaluations, and fit testing.

To determine if respirator use was necessary in his operation, Greg researched methods for conducting what the audit team called a "job hazard analysis." Greg worked with Linda Anderson, a qualified professional (e.g., an industrial hygienist) to identify and evaluate respiratory hazards that might exist at the marina. Linda reviewed material safety data sheets (MSDS), took air samples, and inquired of employee



work activities. She found that Greg's employees did not need to wear respirators equipped with vapor cartridges when painting boats with rollers since there was adequate ventilation for that activity outside. However, employees should be required to wear particulate filtering respirators while sanding boats since there were risks associated with inhaling pieces of paint, wood, and metal and since there were no other ways to minimize the risks from sanding boats. Trying to eliminate the need for an RPP and reducing the respiratory hazard for employees is a required first step for any business and can eliminate the need for an RPP entirely.

Since an RPP was required for sanding boats, Greg began by reviewing the RPP assistance resources left by the audit team. These resources helped him understand which RPP elements were required for his operation. Since Greg's employees were required to wear respirators, his program included all nine elements specified below.

With the help of assistance materials provided by the audit team, Greg was able to develop and implement an RPP. "Those materials were really helpful. I would never have had the time to write the whole thing from scratch. The audit team helped jump-start the whole process."

*Disclaimer: This is not a real concessioner, but an example to illustrate what may be required in an RPP. For further assistance, contact your Federal, state, or local OSHA offices.*

## RESOURCES:

- OSHA Helpline: 301/515-6796
- OSHA state office: 1-800-424-9346
- Small Entity Compliance Guide for OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard: [www.osha.gov/Publications/SECG\\_RPS/secg\\_rps.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/SECG_RPS/secg_rps.html)
- Respiratory Protection eTool: [www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory/index.html](http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/etools/respiratory/index.html).
- *Guidance for Developing a Written Respiratory Protection Program* – available from the Concession Environmental Management Program.

Required Elements for an RPP (from 29 CFR 1910.134)	Respirator is Required	Voluntarily Use Respirators*
Procedures for selecting appropriate respirators.	X	
Medical evaluations to determine whether an individual is healthy enough to wear a respirator.	X	X
Procedures for ensuring respirators fit properly.	X	
Procedures for the proper use of respirators during routine and non-routine (e.g., emergency) tasks.	X	
Procedures for properly maintaining and storing respirators.	X	X
Procedures for ensuring adequate air supply for atmosphere-supplying respirators.	X	
Training on the respiratory hazards to which employees may be exposed.	X	
Training on how respirators should be worn and their limitations.	X	
Procedures for evaluating the program's effectiveness.	X	
Procedures for ensuring that employees have been given Appendix D of the Respiratory Protection Standard.	X	X

\* If only filtering facepieces are used voluntarily, the only required RPP element is that employees have been given Appendix D of the Respiratory Protection Standard.

Environmental terms and labels can be confusing. What's "natural" isn't necessarily "organic;" what's "recycled" isn't necessarily "recyclable." To help you better choose environmentally preferable products, here is an explanation of some commonly used environmental terms and labels.

## Biodegradable

Products for sale that are labeled as "biodegradable" will break down and return to nature within a reasonably short time after disposal, according to the United States Federal Trade Commission guidelines. However, different materials degrade at different rates depending on disposal conditions. As a general rule, the more light, water, air, and/or bacterial activity present, the faster a product will degrade. It is best to choose biodegradable products and packaging that are recyclable and/or biodegradable, rather than products and packaging that are not recyclable and/or biodegradable. For more information, go to [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/epaclaims.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/epaclaims.htm).



## Chasing Arrows

The chasing arrows symbol includes one arrow each for "reduce, reuse, and recycle." The symbol can mean that an item is recyclable or that it is made from either recycled content or post-consumer recycled content. Because its meaning can be unclear, in addition to looking for the chasing arrows symbol, it is recommended that concessioners look for more specific wording on the products considered for purchase to determine the symbol's true meaning. Such wording may state, "this item is made with 30 percent post-consumer content" or "this item is recyclable."



## Chasing Arrows with a Number in the Center

Plastic products are commonly stamped with the chasing arrow symbol (see above) with a number in the middle. These numbers correspond to different types of plastics, some of which may be recyclable. For example, plastics labeled with a "1" are made from polyethylene terephthalate (e.g., soda bottles) and are recyclable in many areas. Plastics labeled with a "6" are made from polystyrene (e.g., "clam shell" take-out containers) and are usually not easily recyclable. Check with your local recycling facilities to determine what types of plastics are recyclable and use this information to help choose which products you purchase so you can then recycle them locally.



## ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR qualified products such as dishwashers, refrigerators, light bulbs, and computers use less energy than conventional products. ENERGY STAR qualified products must meet strict Federal guidelines for energy efficiency, which are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy. Because they use less energy, these products help reduce energy costs and help reduce power plant emissions from electricity generators. To learn more about ENERGY STAR qualified products, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).



## Fair Trade Certified

Products that are "fair trade certified" are grown by farmers who belong to cooperatives and are paid a fair minimum wage. Buyers of fair trade certified products must pay a fair price and be willing to pay up to 60 percent of the purchase in advance. These measures help reduce the farmers' exposure to fluctuating markets and prices. For more information about fair trade certified products, go to [www.transfairusa.org](http://www.transfairusa.org).

## Natural

Meat or poultry products labeled as "natural" do not contain any artificial flavoring, color ingredients, chemical preservatives, or artificial or synthetic ingredients. These products are also "minimally processed," which means that any processing done does not fundamentally alter the raw product. However, they are not necessarily organic (see below), and therefore may have been produced with antibiotics, genetic engineering, etc. For more information about "natural" products, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/lablterm.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/lablterm.htm).

When used on other products such as packaged foods or personal items (e.g., shampoo, lotion), the term "natural" is not regulated and may have dramatically different meanings from one product to another.



## Organic

The term "organic" is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture and applies to many products, though the most familiar organic products are produce, dairy products, and meats. Organic products are produced without antibiotics, genetic engineering, irradiation, sewage sludge, and most synthetic and petroleum-derived pesticides and fertilizers. Organic animals must eat 100 percent organic feed that does not contain animal byproducts or growth hormones. These animals must also have access to the outdoors although due to a regulatory loophole, chickens may be confined. "100% Organic" products contain only organic ingredients. "Organic" products must contain at least 95 percent certified organic ingredients and products labeled with, "Made with Organic Ingredients" must contain at least 70 percent organic ingredients. To learn more about organic labeling, go to [www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm).

## Shade Grown or Bird Friendly Coffee

Coffee that is "shade grown" or "bird friendly" is grown in the shade of other trees. Coffee plants naturally grow in the shade of other trees, which supports birds and other wildlife by preserving their habitat, reducing erosion, and helping to maintain the soil's nutrient content. Coffee that is not shade grown is typically produced by farms that clear cut native forests; after a few years, the soil's nutrient content is drastically reduced, spurring farms to clear cut more native forests and abandon the land they have already cleared. For more information about shade grown, bird friendly coffee, go to [www.groundsforchange.com](http://www.groundsforchange.com).

# Inside:

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## CoEMP Corner: Stay Green in Summer!

The NPS Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP) continues to receive many questions on what to look for when buying environmentally preferable products since the marketplace has become deluged with companies making lofty environmental marketing claims. For example, as of October 21, 2002, all foods labeled as "organic" must meet stringent government-specified guidelines, which are an important step in supporting farmers who choose to raise organic products. But sometimes it's difficult to know how organic products differ from non-organic products, leaving consumers confused and frustrated.

In this issue of the *GreenLine* Newsletter, we've tried to provide tools or resources you can use when researching and purchasing environmentally preferable products. Two articles, *Ask Dr. Ima Park* and *The Green Dictionary*, explain some commonly misunderstood terms to shed light on what consumers should look for when making their environmentally

responsible purchases. Then, *Big Box Stores Go Green* shows us that we can find environmentally preferable products almost anywhere nowadays.

But we haven't forgotten about concessioners' regulatory questions. Since the lack of a respiratory protection program (RPP) remains a common type of concessioner regulatory non-compliance, we follow a hypothetical concessioner through the development of his RPP in *Breathe Right*.

As always, we encourage readers to submit their comments and questions to the *GreenLine* Newsletter. We value your feedback and hope that you'll let us know about those issues that are most important to you.

Wendy M. Berhman  
Team Lead  
Concession Environmental Management Program



## ASSISTANCE

If you require technical assistance on environmental issues or want to learn more about the Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP), contact us:

GreenLine Number:  
303/987-6913



Email:  
NPS\_GreenLine@nps.gov



Website:  
concessions.nps.gov,  
click "CoEMP"



## Training to Save Energy

Are you concerned about your energy use? Do you want to make your facilities and operations more energy efficient?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program offers free Internet-based training modules that will help you control your energy use. During these live 30- to 60-minute training sessions, you have the opportunity to interact with energy and/or financial consultants who help identify ways to reduce your operation's energy use and costs.

You may be most interested in the training sessions titled "Purchasing and Procurement" and "Introduction to the Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator Spreadsheet." However, you may find other sessions relevant, so be sure to read all of the course descriptions and to decide what might be most applicable to your concession operations and facilities. For session descriptions and calendars, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), click on "Business Improvement," then click on "Trainings and Presentations" under the Tools & Resources section on the left-hand side.

