

National Park Service
2004 Environmental Achievement Awards
Honorable Mention

Verkamp's, Concessioner
Grand Canyon National Park

Verkamp's is a small family-run concession that has served the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for nearly a century. Throughout their history, Verkamp's has strived to be good stewards of the park's resources; the result is that Verkamp's has had little impact on the environment. Recently, Verkamp's decided to formalize what they have been doing for many years by developing and implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS). This coincided with the park's goal of implanting a park-wide EMS.

The following lists some of the noteworthy environmental accomplishments of Verkamp's:

- Partnered with local and regional NPS staff, and the EPA Region;
- Eliminated all identified significant aspects;
- Actively promoted environmental practices to employees (recycling tips, energy savings tips, "Queen of Clean" books in library, etc.);
- Accepted as member of EPA's performance track;
- Installed motion-sensors on lights;
- Significantly reduced the amount of hazardous materials in use and storage;
- Purchased environmentally preferable products including:
 - rechargeable batteries for digital cameras;
 - vinegar-based window cleaner;
 - copy-paper fax machine (previous machine used thermo-paper);
 - washable micro fiber dust cloths to replace disposable dust cloths;
 - reusable plastic gloves to replace disposable plastic gloves used when cleaning the restrooms;
 - recycled content copy paper; and
 - rubber pencil cap erasers (to extend life of pencil);
- Re-used office paper for backup invoices, daily credit card reports, sales reports, and emails;
- Re-used buckets as employee recycling bins;
- Returned shipping materials to vendors;
- Returned 100 plastic belt hangers to the belt vendor for reuse;
- Sent 20 printer cartridges to Hewlett Packard for recycling;
- Placed recycling bins for aluminum, glass, and plastic by the front doors for visitor use;
- Recycled florescent bulbs, incandescent bulbs, alkaline, NiCad and lithium batteries;
- Offered to recycle spent camera batteries and receipts for customers;
- Canceled catalogue mailings from 25 vendors;
- Asked customers if they would like them to cut tags from hats and rings so they do not end up as litter;
- Offered visitors the option of not getting a paper bag for their purchases (save a bag/save a tree).