

National Park Service
2004 Environmental Achievement Awards
Winner

Grand Canyon National Park/Xanterra Parks & Resorts Team

The Grand Canyon National Park and Xanterra Parks & Resorts (GRCA/Xanterra) Team has developed and implemented a noteworthy recycling program at Grand Canyon National Park. In 2003, the Team devised a system which not only helped divert solid waste but increased recycling tonnage tremendously and achieved significant results in the first year.

- The Park awarded a new recycling contract to an established local firm, who accepted an expanded list of recyclable items for the entire Park. The list included glass, steel and aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, chipboard, and cardboard;
- The Team developed an active advertising program to promote the new recycling program. Flyers were sent to all residents, articles were placed in local papers, and recycling program information was provided to all tourists via a guide which was distributed at all entrance stations;
- Xanterra provided flyers to all its employees, and information was placed in guestrooms and strategic locations throughout the concession operations;
- Xanterra created a recycling program at the Recreational Center for the Park community. Phone books, plastic grocery bags, and household batteries were collected and recycled;
- The Team developed programs to recycle or reuse bus tires, car batteries, used oil, used solvents, fluorescent lamps, laundry drums, and toner and inkjet cartridges; and
- The Team used mule manure in a cold composting enterprise which is used to help re-vegetate a landfill closure cap.

The Team's efforts resulted in 1,454 tons of material recycled in 2003, equating to a waste diversion rate of 40.2 %. Additionally, the Team's 2003 purchases contained 271,657 pounds of recycled content products.