

National Park Service
2006 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Yosemite National Park Team
“Yosemite Valley Hybrid Shuttle Bus Project”

In 2003, Yosemite National Park determined that the hybrid electric-diesel propulsion system best achieved the parks desire to provide highly reliable, cost-effective, and attractive shuttle service, with reduced energy consumption, emissions, and noise. A transportation consulting firm prepared detailed specifications for the hybrid buses in cooperation with Yosemite National Park and the park concessioner. Based on the specifications, the General Services Administration (GSA) developed a procurement package and in 2004, awarded a contract to manufacture eighteen new hybrid electric-diesel buses.

Eighteen hybrid buses were delivered to the Park in 2005. These buses are powered by a hybrid technology consisting of a small diesel engine and electric (battery-powered) drive transmission. Through battery power, it is possible to reduce the size of the diesel engine resulting in reduced emissions and noise, and increased fuel efficiency.

The Park’s innovative yet highly reliable diesel hybrid electric buses have demonstrated a fuel economy increase of approximately 20 percent relative to a conventional diesel bus fleet. Based upon current operational data, the diesel hybrid electric buses will reduce fuel consumption by over 14,000 gallons (and save over \$30,000) annually without sacrificing passenger service to park visitors.