

National Park Service
2007 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Xanterra South Rim, LLC, Concessioner
Grand Canyon National Park
“Grand Canyon’s Innovative Green Purchasing Program”

Xanterra South Rim, LLC, concessioner at Grand Canyon National Park, has identified two necessary components of a successful green purchasing program:

- Input and participation from all departments; and
- Looking beyond recycled content products and tailoring the program to fit to each department’s needs.

Information gathering is also key to the program’s success. Each Xanterra South Rim vendor is sent a cover letter and one-page questionnaire. The letter states that Xanterra South Rim is moving towards sustainability and that as corporate policy, environmentally preferable items are given preference over comparable traditional items. Vendors are asked for product information such as recycled content, and if the product is biodegradable. Because packaging is a significant source of waste, vendors are also asked for details on product packaging and strategies to reduce waste. Xanterra gives preference to products with take-back packaging, recyclable packaging, or packaging made with recycled content.

The result is that Xanterra South Rim’s green purchasing program now includes over 100 environmentally preferable products used and/or offered for sale in Xanterra South Rim operations, including, but not limited to:

- 100% post consumer recycled content business envelopes;
- 100% recycled, 40% post-consumer content paper towels;
- 70% recycled content project folders;
- Remanufactured computer toner cartridges;
- ENERGY STAR® certified photocopiers with sleep function;
- T-shirts made with 100 percent recycled cotton;
- Recycled Greeting Cards;
- Pens made with 100 percent recycled paper as the barrel and clip, with plastic parts being 90 percent recycled (total 75-85 percent);
- Wild Alaskan salmon (certified by Marine Stewardship Council);
- Locally-brewed beer;
- Wines made using organic grapes and/or integrated pest management (e.g., encouragement of native owl populations for natural pest control);
- Shade-grown, bird friendly coffee;
- Compact fluorescent lighting; and
- Programmable thermostats.