

National Park Service
2007 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Concessioner

Petrified Forest National Park

“Good Things Come In Small Packages:

Taking Waste Management to the Highest Level in Petrified Forest National Park”

Tracking waste and recycling data is an important part of Xanterra’s waste management program. Data is tracked on a daily, monthly, or annual basis depending on the type of waste or recyclable material. Annual recycling goals are set by employees and tied to their annual performance reviews. Pay raises and bonuses are determined, in part, on whether environmental goals are met. As a result, every employee makes the effort to achieve the established goals.

The results of the application of this waste management program at Petrified Forest National Park are noteworthy, particularly because of the park’s remote location. In 2006, Xanterra achieved a 76% solid waste diversion rate - a 50% increase in the waste diversion rate since 2002 - at two small retail stores, a gas station, and two small cafeterias by:

- Giving food waste generated from the two restaurants to local ranchers for their animals, which resulted in the diversion of over 1,400 pounds of food waste from the landfill;
- Purchasing flour grown and made on a nearby Navajo Reservation. Instead of large paper sacks, the flour is delivered in cloth bags, which are returned to the Reservation to be refilled for the next delivery.
- Using old newspapers are used to wrap fragile items from the retail stores
- Re-using cardboard boxes in good condition.
- Offering the following environmentally-friendly products for sale in its two retail stores:
 - Recycled content T-shirts, blankets, and sweat-shirts;
 - Soy based candles;
 - Locally produced products (Navajo tea, Blue Bird flour, Prickly Pear Barbeque sauce, salsa, hot sauce, fry bread mix, and hominy); and
 - Rechargeable batteries (with an opportunity to recycle the batteries being replaced).
- Using environmentally-friendly products throughout the park, including 100% biodegradable paper bowls; to-go containers made from recycled paper; and 100% biodegradable toilet seat covers. Other products include paper napkins, fax paper, copier paper, legal pads, deposit envelopes, stationary and calculator tapes, clipboards, pencils, and paperclips made with recycled content.