

National Park Service
2013 Environmental Achievement Awards

Award Winner

Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Concessioner
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Xanterra's Sustainability Efforts at Mount Rushmore

In 2012, Xanterra Parks & Resorts, concessioner at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, took a comprehensive approach to improving sustainability. Xanterra installed a water refill station; added three new recycling program options; transformed an unsuccessful composting operation into an effective program; retrofitted its lighting units to energy conscious, environmentally friendly LED and compact fluorescent light bulb units; and by offering more sustainable food options for both employees and visitors.

All facets of Xanterra's operations at the park—the Sustainability Department, Food and Beverage Operations, and the maintenance crew—were involved in these efforts. The results of these efforts include:

- Removing an estimated 30,000 plastic bottles from the annual solid waste stream through the use of the (quite popular) water filling station—an estimate based on 2011 sales (equal to between 830 pounds. and 1,250 pounds of plastic, depending on the size of the bottle and the manufacturing timeframe);
- Diverting just over 2,800 pounds of mixed paper and 698 pounds of electronics from the landfill through enhanced recycling;
- Significantly improving the composting operation that now supplies quality compost to Xanterra and park employees, the Xanterra garden, and local residents.
- Increasing sustainable food purchases so that now about 40 percent of Xanterra's food and beverage purchases at the park are from sustainable, organic, and/or local sources.

The noteworthy sustainability improvements of Xanterra Parks and Resorts have led to significant environmental benefits to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, to park visitors and employees, and to the surrounding communities.