



GreenLine

The GreenLine has gone electronic and will no longer be distributed hardcopy

The Green Parks Plan - Fostering Sustainability in Our National Parks

As stated in the Organic Act of 1916, the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) is to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of national parks for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations. With this imperative in mind, the NPS has committed to establishing parks as leaders in environmental management and stewardship and as examples of a sustainable path to the future. This commitment, and the NPS’s collective vision that serves as its basis, is known as the *Green Parks Plan* (GPP). The GPP aims to involve all park stakeholders, including concessioners, in the process of advancing environmental sustainability for operations and visitor activities. As stated in the plan, “the NPS will preserve park resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of current and future generations by reducing its environmental impact through sustainable operations, design, decisions, and management at every level of the organization.”

Specifically, the plan is made up of nine strategic goals. Each of these goals is supported by concrete performance objectives, as follows:

1. Continuously Improve Environmental Performance

The NPS is committed to implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) throughout the NPS by the end of 2012, as well as ensuring that all of its operations are in compliance with environmental regulations and policies through periodic environmental audits.

2. Be Climate Friendly and Climate Ready

The GPP includes concrete greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. In particular, it calls for the NPS to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions (those associated with on-site fossil fuel combustion and electricity consumption from the grid, respectively) by 35 percent by 2020. The NPS is also committed to reducing Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions (from indirect

sources, such as commuter travel) to 90 percent of 2008 levels by 2020. To support emissions reductions, the GPP calls on the NPS to develop and implement a plan to retrofit park facilities and infrastructure to cope with the effects of climate change, including extreme weather.

3. Be Energy Smart

Under the GPP, the NPS will reduce energy use in buildings by 35 percent by 2016, compared to a 2003 baseline. The NPS will also improve efforts to track energy use to better inform reduction strategies for existing structures. Additionally, the NPS will minimize fossil fuel consumption in new buildings and will prioritize the use of renewable energy whenever possible.

4. Be Water Wise

The GPP commits the NPS to reducing potable water use by 30 percent by 2020, compared to a 2007 baseline. The NPS will also monitor water use to determine the most effective water management policies.

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Ask Dr. Ima Park



What are water audits and why do we need them?

Dr. Ima Park: A water audit is a great way to determine how your operation uses water and how to use it more wisely. The purpose of a water audit is to identify resource and cost saving opportunities. Water audits can identify areas of high water use in which your operation should focus attention; for example, an audit may identify leaks or other issues that are causing you to lose water unnecessarily. Losing water is like having a hole in the floor of your store or hotel that consumes the goods you put out on your shelves before any customers come through the door.

I live in an area where water is plentiful. Is conserving water really an issue for me?

Strains on water supplies and our aging water treatment systems can lead to a variety of consequences for communities. These consequences include the potential for water price increases, increased summer restrictions to manage shortages, and seasonal losses of recreational areas in areas where wildlife and human demands conflict. Conserving water benefits the environment, recreation, and your wallet by having more fresh water available for wildlife and flora, and by reducing water treatment chemical use and costs.

How do I go about conducting a water audit?

The goal of a water audit is to control the amount of water being lost. Water audits analyze a facility's current water use by reviewing domestic, sanitary, landscaping, and process water systems. Based on U.S. Geological Survey estimates, somewhere between six and seven billion gallons of water are lost per day by water systems in the U.S.

Once the "holes" in the system have been identified, a water audit seeks to identify ways to increase a facility's water-use efficiency. The NPS formally supports water conservation through the Green Parks Plan (GPP), in which the NPS states that it will be "water wise" in order to improve facility water use efficiency. The NPS has set a specific goal of reducing potable water use intensity by 30 percent by 2020, compared to a 2007 baseline identifying problem areas in water use and ways to address them will not only save your business money and support sustainability, but it will help the NPS meet GPP goals.

Request a water audit from your local water utility (many offer them for free), hire a water audit specialist, or have your own staff conduct an audit (see sidebar). Even though the cost of water is currently relatively low, every drop counts!

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5. Green our Rides

To further reduce GHG emissions and support efficient transportation practices under the GPP, the NPS will increase the use of high-efficiency and low-GHG emitting vehicles and will reduce fossil fuel consumption by 20 percent by 2015, compared to a 2005 baseline. The NPS will minimize miles driven by staff through initiatives like reducing official travel when feasible.

6. Buy Green and Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

The GPP states that the NPS will divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfills by 2015 by recycling and other practices. In addition, the NPS is committed to purchasing environmentally preferable products, which include recycled content and less toxic materials, whenever possible. The NPS will also reduce electronic waste through environmentally friendly procurement and responsible recycling or donation programs. Finally, the NPS will continue to manage hazardous waste in accordance with applicable rules and regulations, and dispose of it responsibly.

7. Preserve Outdoor Values

As experiencing the outdoors is central to the mission of the NPS, the GPP calls for extra measures to be taken to preserve outdoor spaces, including reducing light pollution from park facilities, minimizing sound pollution, and ensuring that all facilities operate in a way that minimizes impacts on natural and cultural resources.

8. Adopt Best Practices

In order to integrate sustainability into all planning in the NPS, the GPP calls on the NPS to adopt a number of best practices. Aside from EMS implementation, these include the use of sustainability requirements in new contracts, the implementation of a Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan, and a number of storm water management policies designed to minimize pollution.

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HOW MUCH WATER DOES YOUR OPERATION USE?

Below are some links to help you conduct a water audit.



[Simple water calculator from the Save Water America campaign](#)

[American Water Works Association free water audit software](#)

[Conduct your Own Water Audit](#)

NPS and Climate Change

In September 2010, the NPS released its [Climate Change Response Strategy](#), which outlines its approach to addressing the effects of climate change on national parks. The strategy is supported by four pillars: science, adaptation, greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, and communication.

Using science to help us manage: The NPS will identify and apply the best available climate science. By collaborating with scientific agencies and institutions, we can address the specific needs of park managers and park partners as they confront the challenges of climate change.

Adapting to an uncertain future: Climate change will alter park ecosystems in fundamental ways. The NPS must remain flexible amidst a changing landscape and an uncertain future and swiftly address both natural and human systems that affect climate change. Scenario planning, which is a method for learning about the future by understanding the nature and impact of the most uncertain and important driving forces affecting the earth, will be a key tool for adaptation.

Reducing our carbon footprint: An effective way to lessen the long-term effects of climate change is to reduce GHG emissions. The NPS should be a leader in reducing its carbon footprint through energy efficient practices

and integrating climate friendly practices into administration, planning, and workforce culture.

Educating about climate change: National parks are visible examples of how climate change can affect natural and cultural resources. Through clear communication, the NPS will prepare park staff and connect visitors with information concerning climate change impacts to parks and steps the agency is taking to preserve our heritage.

The *Green Parks Plan* seeks to reduce GHG emissions, and support the NPS Response Strategy, through its goal to “Be Climate Friendly and Climate Ready.” One way concessioners can help to support this goal is by engaging in the park’s [Climate Friendly Parks \(CFP\) Program efforts](#), which is a program geared toward providing support to parks in addressing climate change within and outside of their boundaries.

In many parks, concession operations can serve as a gateway between the park and visitors, and concessioners have an incredible opportunity to engage visitors in taking action to lessen the impacts of climate change on both our parks and in their communities. CFP outreach focuses on teaching visitors about a park’s carbon footprint, what the park is doing to mitigate climate effects, and what visitors can do to help.

Leaving No Trace in Commercial Services

Since preserving natural resources is a central tenet of the NPS, Leave No Trace (LNT) principles are often incorporated into concessioner operations (e.g., guides and outfitters) and taught to visitors. LNT teaches outdoor ethics and encourages visitors to enjoy parks in a way that does not impact the environment. The principles ask park visitors to ensure that their wastes will be handled appropriately while in the park, wildlife will not be negatively affected, and future visitors will be able to experience the park for its natural and cultural resources rather than items left behind by previous visitors.

The Green Parks Plan

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9. Foster Sustainability Beyond our Boundaries

Finally, the GPP codifies the commitment of the NPS to increase sustainability outside of the park boundaries. To do this, the NPS will educate park visitors and neighbors on the sustainability actions it takes and the threats posed to parks by climate change. The NPS will also work with visitors to minimize use of personal vehicles inside parks, and to get young visitors involved with sustainability efforts at the parks.

A critical component of the implementation of the GPP is engaging partners, including concessioners, in efforts that address climate change and sustainability. As stated in the GPP, “for facilities not directly maintained or operated by the NPS, such as concessioner-owned and leased buildings, staff will work with partners to implement GPP goals and incorporate them into new concession contracts and leases whenever possible.” Servicewide, concessioners have made significant and noteworthy strides in environmental management.

Under the GPP, concessioners have an opportunity to coordinate their environmental stewardship initiatives with the parks in which they operate, and to be part of a larger program that ensures the health and longevity of our parks, our businesses, and our shared environment. Concessioners are encouraged to reach out to their parks and actively engage them in determining how they can contribute to GPP initiatives through their own efforts.



Xanterra Links it Back to Green House Gases

Xanterra Parks & Resorts is dedicated to slowing global warming and preserving natural resources by reducing emissions and maximizing recycling, among other goals in its 2015 Environmental Vision. This dovetails nicely with the NPS *Green Parks Plan* goals to “reduce, reuse, recycle” and “be climate friendly and climate ready.”

Xanterra at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park strives to provide quality lodging, food and beverage, retail, and transportation services in the most sustainable ways possible. To reduce GHG emissions, Xanterra works to “right-size” the company fleet and reduces the number of vehicle miles traveled. It recently replaced an oversized cargo van that averaged 10 miles per gallon (mpg) with a right-sized Ford Transit Connect that averages 23 mpg.

Xanterra’s reduction in electricity and water consumption further decreases GHG emissions in the park. Reducing water consumption at Grand Canyon is especially important, as potable water must be pumped to the South Rim. Efforts to ensure that water-conserving fixtures function as intended and to teach employees and visitors how they can conserve water can, and do, make a big difference.

For solid waste, Xanterra allowed every department to determine its own solid waste reduction plan rather than having

the Sustainability Department dictate an overall goal for 2012. This encourages all departments to reach waste reduction goals that are achievable so that efforts are more evenly distributed. A great example of closing the local recycling loop is the Accounting Department, which generates large quantities of shredded office paper. The department found a way to reuse this shredded paper by partnering with a local company outside of Flagstaff, Arizona, KT Shredding and SCA Tissue, which uses the shredded paper to make toilet tissue and paper towels. Xanterra purchases these paper products and uses them in its operations.

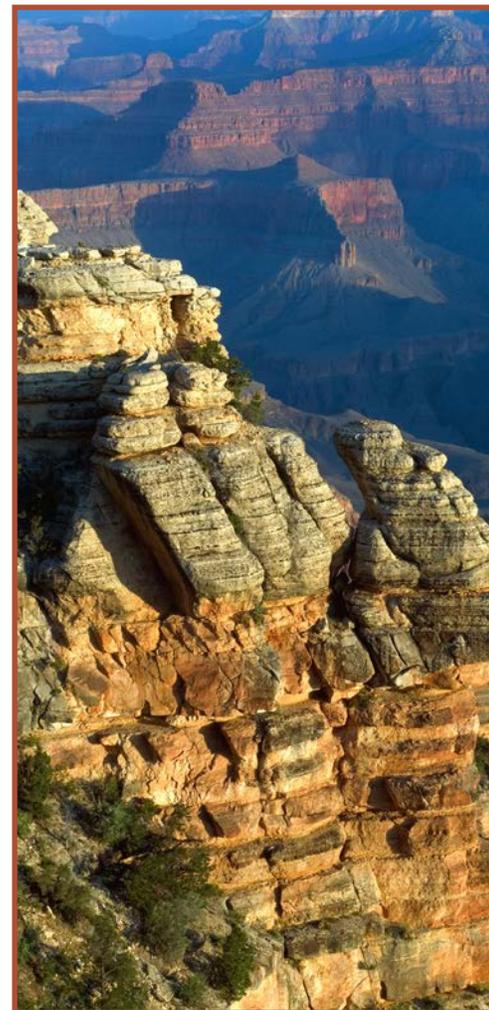
Xanterra systematically specifies in all supplier agreements that shipments must have reduced packaging to minimize solid waste generation. Xanterra has also for many years kept any remaining supplier packaging for reuse; this comes in handy for such situations in which park visitors request that retail purchases be mailed to their homes. Boxes, packing peanuts, and bubble wrap are all reused, and a special sticker is placed on packaging so that the recipient understands that the packaging is reused.

Xanterra is engaging in a myriad of other activities that support both the NPS *Green Parks Plan* and the Xanterra 2015 Environmental Vision. These can be viewed on the [Xanterra](#) website.

(Above, left) Accounting and IT staff with shredder. NPS Photo

(Above, center) Ford Transit and Crew. NPS Photo

(Above, right) Red Horse Cabin and Engineering. NPS Photo



FACT

The amount of electricity used to pump one gallon of water to the South Rim is equal to the amount of electricity needed to power a compact fluorescent lamp for 72 minutes!

“Sleep Tight, Don’t Let the Bedbugs Bite!”



Unfortunately, bedbugs have made a comeback in lodging facilities across the country, but concessioners are aggressive in their efforts to eradicate them. Although U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered pesticides are most commonly used—after approval from the park’s integrated pest management coordinator—DNC Parks & Resorts (DNC) at Yosemite National Park is taking a different approach to prevent and eliminate bedbugs.

Three years ago, DNC hired a contractor that uses specialized equipment to

“overheat” an infected room for several hours. This overheating kills the bedbugs, their young, and their eggs, and reaches anywhere the bedbugs might be hiding, leaving the room bedbug free. This strategy proved so successful that DNC purchased their own specialized equipment and trained their staff on its proper use earlier this year.

DNC housekeeping staff also routinely look for signs of bedbugs when cleaning rooms and immediately notify maintenance if they find any. Since the treatment does not take more than a few hours, even infected rooms can be turned around on the same day for availability.

In the future, DNC hopes to provide a “hot box” so that park visitors can have their luggage heated up to kill off any bedbug “hitchhikers.”

Sustainability Afloat

At Lake Mojave, situated in the heart of the Mojave Desert on the border of Arizona and Nevada, resource conservation is a matter of daily necessity. For the management team at Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, environmental sustainability is a corporate directive.

In 2010, this environmental mission took shape in a new Marina Services Building that may soon become the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified floating building in the country. Desert climates always provide challenges for resource conservation, and if you add the engineering challenges of “floating” a building on the ever changing water levels of a desert lake, environmentally friendly design becomes a very tall order. As a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Cottonwood Cove was able to work carefully with architects at Carlson Studio Architecture to design a building to the USGBC’s stringent standards. The architects filled it with environmentally friendly products and technology that are expected to help the building receive LEED Silver certification.

This innovative design began with a lightweight modular wall and roof system, which cut down on the energy needed to transport lightweight components as



NPS Photo / Andrew S. Muñoz

well as the amount of materials needed to keep the building afloat. Of course, the walls and roof were only the beginning. Other design elements intended to maximize energy efficiency are:

- Energy efficient windows that include thermal-break aluminum components and tempered low-e glass;
- Strategically placed windows that maximize the use of natural light inside the building, and photo cells that automatically adjust interior light levels based on need; and
- 9-watt compact fluorescent bulbs to replace the 250-watt sodium vapor lighting at the marina, reducing both night sky pollution and energy use.

Many of the products used in the construction of the building have a more

sustainable lifecycle, from the sourcing of materials to manufacturing, and eventually disposal. These products include:

- Walls, roofing, and flooring from K-Tech Sustainable Building Systems, which are non-toxic and have no heavy metals;
- An external finish made from recycled tires, which is both aesthetically pleasing and flexible enough to withstand the movements of a floating building;
- Durable subflooring made of recycled carpet instead of shorter-lived plywood;
- Recycled and regionally extracted manufactured materials, such as concrete, steel, drywall, metal studs, and carpet; and
- Exterior decking made from recycled plastics and rice hulls, which are rapidly renewable.

Becoming the first floating member of the prestigious LEED family would certainly be a terrific accomplishment. By examining the full environmental impact of each element of the building and every aspect of its operation, Cottonwood Cove and Lake Mead National Recreation Area have already succeeded in raising the bar in sustainable marina design. For more information, contact Matt Sheldon, Concessions Management Specialist at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, at Matt_Sheldon@nps.gov.

Purchasing For a Greener Tomorrow

These days, it's all the rage (and a requirement for federal government agencies) to “buy green.” That's a good thing, since buying green—also known as “environmental purchasing” or “environmentally preferable purchasing”—helps conserve natural resources and minimizes the generation of solid waste. These concepts are key elements of the NPS *Green Park Plan* goal to “buy green and reduce, reuse, and recycle.”

But what does buying green mean? Sometimes buying green can be difficult or confusing, and concessions operations may face many hurdles related to cost and availability. Further, as environmentally preferable purchasing has become more “en vogue,” it has also become increasingly difficult to navigate the “green” sea and ensure that you are getting the most effective product that offers the most bang for the buck. That's where an environmental purchasing (EP) program comes into play. An EP program is a tool that will help you integrate environmental considerations into your current purchasing practices. Here are some examples of simple practices that yield the biggest return and how they might be included in your EP plan.

BULK PACKAGING

Buying in bulk is a simple idea that most businesses embrace because it is often a more economical alternative to purchasing in smaller quantities. However, buying in bulk has environmental benefits, too. Not only does it reduce the transportation needed—and consequently the carbon emitted—to get the product from its place of manufacture to you, but the overall amount of packaging materials used is typically smaller for items purchased in bulk, when compared to items purchased individually, which means less solid waste. Looking at the operations purchasing will likely yield several opportunities to substitute bulk products.

SEEING “GREEN”

Confused by the endless claims of companies selling “green” products? You are not alone. In fact, there has been so much confusion and “green washing” of products over recent years that the Federal Trade Commission

(FTC) has updated the Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims, or “[Green Guides](#),” to hold marketers to a clear set of standards and to educate consumers about what claims of “green,” “environmentally safe,” or “eco-friendly” really mean. Using the Green Guides can not only help you to identify truly environmentally preferable items, but it may assist you in focusing on which environmentally preferable items you want to use and offer for sale in your retail operation. If you are just getting started, you can use Green Guides to identify two or three environmentally preferable attributes for products as defined by the FTC, for example “non-toxic” and “biodegradable,” integrate those into the EP, and start identifying and purchasing products that exhibit those attributes. If you have an established EP in place, you can put your products to the test. Do they meet the criteria and do what they claim to do? If not, start substituting products that will.

TRIED AND TRUE

The General Services Administration provides guidance on environmental purchasing requirements and resources for purchasing various products. For a look at which products have been tried and proven to be true to their claims, visit the [Sustainable Facilities Tool](#).

TRAIN STAFF

Ensure that all employees complete Green Purchasing Training as part of the new hire process. Click [here](#) for one example of a training resource provided by the National Institutes of Health.

Along with implementing some of the above practices, remember that your plan should include any EP requirements in your concession contract as well as local or state-specific requirements. As a best management practice, you can also include federal government requirements for EP purchasing, which include acquiring products that contain recycled content or that are energy-efficient, water-efficient, bio-based, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting, non-toxic, or less-toxic alternatives.



Go Green

GSA offers products and services that support your Green efforts and help our nation build a clean energy future and protect the environment.

► learn more about GSA's Green Initiatives >>

Environmental purchasing can benefit small concessioner operations too!

Instead of developing an EP program, small concessioner operations can develop a streamlined EP standard operating procedure. It may be as simple as posting a list of environmentally preferable products that should be purchased in place of conventional products.

ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING RESOURCES

- [King County Environmental Purchasing Program](#)
- [US Environmental Protection Agency Environmentally Preferable Purchasing \(EPP\)](#)
- [Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool](#)
- [US Department of Agriculture BioPreferred Program](#)
- [Green Seal](#)
- [Responsible Purchasing Network](#)
- [BuySmart Network](#)

To meet its goal of reducing GHG emissions by 30 percent by 2016, Yellowstone National Park has partnered with Michelin to provide energy-saving tires for its fleet. In the first year, fleet managers saved up to 20 percent on fuel and reduced CO₂ emissions by 4 tons per vehicle!

Mean, Green Driving Machines



Carlsbad hybrids. NPS Photo

Transportation is an important part of most concessioner operations since people and products need to move from place to place. The *Green Parks Plan* (GPP) outlines environmental management and sustainability goals for parks, including the “Green Our Rides” goal. This GPP goal is aimed at increasing the use of high-efficiency and low-greenhouse gas-emitting vehicles, reducing fossil fuel consumption, and minimizing miles driven. There are many best management practices (BMPs) that concessioner staff can implement to contribute to meeting this goal.

Where possible, start by implementing behavioral changes that may lead to reduced GHG emissions from your operations. Encourage concessioner staff to carpool with other employees who are driving to nearby areas. Educate visitors with signage or educational presentations on ways to minimize the impact of their travel in the park. Encourage visitors to use park shuttles (if available) and to better

plan their trip so that they can see park features without excess driving.

Reduce the number of vehicles in your operation’s fleet, also known as “right-sizing” your fleet, so that it is appropriate for the type and frequency of transportation activities. Fewer vehicles mean fewer emissions and less maintenance.

If feasible, phase in more environmentally preferable vehicles to your fleet, such as vehicles with higher fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, including plug-in electric vehicles and/or hybrids. Consider purchasing fuel-efficient tires that have a lower rolling resistance, which minimizes the amount of energy, in the form of gasoline, required to move the car.

Implementing the BMPs described above will reduce the environmental impacts of your concession operation’s transportation activities. This helps the NPS get one step closer to “greening our rides” and meeting the GPP goals.



The Shark Valley Tram Tours trams at Everglades National Park run on biodiesel, which is a renewable fuel made from vegetable oil or animal fat. Shark Valley Tram Tour Photo.

Minimizing Sound Pollution

Another goal of the GPP is to “preserve outdoor values” by minimizing the impact of facility operations on the external environment. One of the objectives is to minimize sound pollution, which can negatively impact human health and wildlife. Increased noise pollution has been known to adversely affect wildlife; it has the potential to cause difficulty hearing or locating prey, alter feeding and breeding patterns, and disturb reproductive cycles. Below are a few tips to reduce sound pollution and help create a more serene and tranquil atmosphere for park visitors and wildlife.

Landscaping:

- **Plant Trees:** Planting trees can help reduce sound pollution by blocking out undesirable sounds. As an added bonus, trees absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, and prevent erosion!
- **Go Manual:** Use non-motorized approaches to landscaping, such as raking instead of using a blower or using hand trimmers rather than bush trimmer.

Vehicles and Watercraft:

- **Reduce Idling:** Implement a no idling policy for contractors, staff, and visitors.
- **Reduce Vehicles:** Encourage staff to reduce the number of vehicle trips by carpooling or planning ahead and taking one trip to accomplish multiple tasks. If possible, provide shuttle buses for concessioner employees or visitors between specific locations.
- **Maintain Motors:** Ensure that boat propellers are regularly cleaned. This results in greatly reduced underwater sound levels. Engines that are well-tuned and insulated from the hull will also reduce noise pollution.
- **Educate:** Display messages about keeping boats clean and in proper working order for private boat owners.
- Minimizing sound pollution not only protects natural and cultural resources, but it also allows visitors to more fully enjoy their outdoor experience and appreciate the sounds of nature.

FACT

Human health issues related to sound include stress-related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity.



Jefferson Rock, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

GreenLine

GreenLine is an official publication of NPS Commercial Services. The newsletter provides a forum in which the NPS can share information with NPS staff and concessioners about NPS Commercial Services, current environmental requirements, and best management practices. The newsletter also identifies resources available to improve concessioner environmental performance and highlights success stories.

Guest articles have been reviewed by NPS Commercial Services and, if required, edited in collaboration with the original author.

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Notice: This newsletter is intended as an educational tool for businesses that provide visitor services in national parks. Every effort has been made to ensure the information presented is accurate. However, the content does not constitute a complete reference to federal, state, or local laws nor does it constitute rulemaking, policy, or guidance. Relying solely on the information in the newsletter will not guarantee compliance with applicable regulations. Strategies, procedures, and proposed solutions for compliance issues should be discussed with the appropriate federal, state, and/or local regulatory agencies; it remains the sole responsibility of operators to determine compliance with regulations. Inclusion in the newsletter is not an endorsement of a particular operator, product, or strategy.



Branch Chief's Corner

As we get closer to 2013, there is growing emphasis on sustaining our resources for future generations. For the NPS, this means the parks and the irreplaceable natural and historical resources that they provide on a daily basis. This issue of the *GreenLine* newsletter focuses on the recently released *Green Parks Plan (GPP)*, a collective vision and long-term strategic plan for sustainable management of NPS operations.

“**The Green Parks Plan – Fostering Sustainability**” in our National Parks provides an overview of the GPP and the nine strategic goals that it sets. We discuss some of the specific goals of the GPP in more detail in the “Purchasing for a Greener Tomorrow,” “Minimizing Sound Pollution,” and “Mean, Green, Driving Machines” articles. We discuss how water audits can help support the GPP goal of conserving water in the “Ask Dr. Ima Park” article as well as how the NPS is addressing climate change through the GPP and other programs in the “NPS and Climate Change” article.

We have highlighted three concession operations that are helping the NPS to meet the goals of the GPP. In “Xanterra Links it Back to Green House Gases” article, Xanterra is highlighted for its solid waste and greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies at the Grand Canyon; DNC Parks and Resorts is highlighted in the “Sleep Tight Don’t Let the Bedbugs Bite” article for its non-toxic and non-invasive approach to eliminating bedbugs at Mount Rainier; and Cottonwood Cove Resort and Lake Mead National Recreation Area are highlighted for building a sustainable floating marina in the “Sustainability Afloat” article.

Kurt Rausch

Contract Management Branch Chief
NPS Commercial Services Program

Global Soap Project

Participating in the Global Soap Project is one small step that lodging operations can take to help them meet the Green Parks Plan goal to “reduce, reuse, and recycle.” The Global Soap Project takes unused soap from hotels and other lodging operations, reprocesses it into new bars, and then distributes these bars to populations in need throughout the world. To get involved in the Global Soap Project, click [here](#) to register. Alternatively, there may also be local initiatives similar to the Global Soap Project that can be found with a little research. The Global Soap Project and similar local initiatives are great ways to reduce waste in your operations while helping those in need across the world.

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ASSISTANCE

If you require technical assistance on environmental issues or want to learn more about NPS Commercial Services, contact us:



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commercialservices/](http://www.nps.gov/commercialservices/)