

National Park Service
2011 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Concessioner
Zion National Park
Vehicle Fleet Efficiency Initiative

Xanterra Parks & Resorts operates Zion Lodge, a 122-room lodging property located within the Zion Lodge Historic District in Zion National Park.

In the fall of 2009, Xanterra examined its Zion Lodge vehicle fleet and determined that an opportunity existed to significantly reduce fuel usage and greenhouse gas emissions through fleet size reduction. A review of employee driving habits was conducted. The lodge's Green Team and management team initiated plans to reduce vehicle trips and fleet size by:

- Adding solar-electric hybrid golf carts to the vehicle fleet for use by maintenance staff and porters who frequently move about the property via parking areas;
- Eliminating less fuel efficient vehicles from its fleet. By October 2010, five vehicles had been eliminated from the fleet.
- Contracting with the Washington County Solid Waste District recycling facility which is closer to the park than the old recycling facility;
- Initiating an employee ride-sharing program to allow employees to share rides to and from work;
- Replacing a 20-year old gasoline fueled touring tram with a propane-gasoline flex fuel tram; and
- Contracting with an armored car company to collect cash and transport it from the lodge to the local bank to eliminate Xanterra vehicle trips to the bank.

The results of these initiatives include:

- Fleet size was reduced by five vehicles or 23%;
- Fuel usage from January 2010 through October 2010 was reduced by 2,900 gallons, or 45.3%, compared to the same period in 2009;
- Direct greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of vehicle fuel were reduced by 56,736 pounds. A reduction of an additional 2,068 pounds of CO₂ was realized with the flex-fuel touring tram. In addition, adding solar-electric hybrid carts has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing electricity usage - CO₂ emissions were reduced by 9,811 pounds, assuming 1.2 kilowatt hours per hour of battery charging; and
- The ride-sharing program has had a participation rate of 28%, further reducing Xanterra's carbon footprint.

Xanterra's efforts should be considered a model for other concessioners seeking to reduce fuel usage and greenhouse gas emissions through fleet size reduction.