



2002: A Year In Review for the CEAS

In 1999, the Concession Environmental Audit System (CEAS) was developed by the NPS Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP) to assist parks and concessioners in identifying concessioner environmental compliance issues and recommendations and/or solutions to improve environmental management and stewardship.

The CEAS continues to move forward in conducting environmental audits of the approximately 600 concessioners that provide visitor services in our national parks.

The Audit Process – An Overview

For those concessioners who have not been audited, the process usually involves at least two auditors (the “Audit Team”) who, over a period of several days:

- Inspect a concessioner’s facilities and services,
- Conduct interviews with concessioner management and employees, and
- Review concessioner environmental documents, such as records and reports.

Auditors then compare their observations of concessioner operations with NPS Audit Criteria that are based on Federal, Tribal, state, and local regulations; DOI and NPS policies; and industry-accepted Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The Audit Team discusses with park and concessioner staff recommended facility- and service-specific strategies to improve concessioner environmental performance. After the site visit, concessioners receive a formal report identifying “Audit Findings” where action is necessary to comply with NPS Audit Criteria. Each Audit Finding is given a priority ranking (see Table 1) and a due date by which it should be addressed.

The audits may also identify Positive Observations in the formal report. These are practices that are exemplary and not yet consis-

tently adopted or applied by other concessioner operations and are not required by Applicable Laws.

Audit Findings for Calendar Year 2002

In calendar year 2002, Audit Teams traveled across the nation and visited 26 concessioners representing a variety of visitor services and facilities including: bathhouses, campgrounds and trailer villages, ferries, fishing guides, food services, gift shops, horse and mule guides, lodges, marinas, and service stations. The number and types of Audit Findings identified in these audits are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: CY2002 Audit Finding Descriptions and Numbers

Priority	Description	Total
1	Immediate harm to human health or the environment.	2
2	Regulatory Audit Findings that are not Priority 1.	272
3a	Non-regulatory Audit Findings. Can be reasonably achieved in the short-term with little effort and/or cost.	279
3b	Non-regulatory Audit Findings. May require significant time and/or capital costs to implement.	60
TOTAL		613

The audits assist in identifying common concessioner-related trends. The NPS can then develop concessioner-specific resources/training to assist concessioners in understanding and addressing these common trends.

Similar to the trends identified in the 2001 audits, the most common Audit Findings identified in 2002 related to the Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200). These Audit Findings demonstrated that many concessioners either did not have or were missing required elements of a HAZCOM plan.

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Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, Utah



GreenLine is an official publication of the National Park Service (NPS) Concession Program. The newsletter provides a forum in which the NPS can share information with NPS staff and concessioners about the Concession Environmental Management Program, current environmental requirements, and Best Management Practices; it also identifies resources available to improve concessioner environmental performance and highlights success stories.

Guest articles have been reviewed by the NPS Concession Environmental Management Program 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 providing 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 State, Federal, or local laws nor does it constitute National Park Service 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 State, Federal, 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.

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Healthier Lifestyles, Healthier Environment

Many of you are in the business of feeding hungry visitors in national parks, whether it's providing quick-serve snacks or serving five-course meals. Although you may not think food preparation impacts the environment, your food and beverage operations offer an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship through the purchase of organically and/or locally grown food.

Newsweek reported in their September 30, 2002 issue that "organic food sales have grown a whopping 20% per year during the past 10 years, compared to 1% per year for the food industry overall."

With the new US Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic food-labeling law, which went into effect October 2002, it has become easier to buy and serve organic products that are produced using the highest organic production and handling standards in the world. Also, the demand for organic food is growing. Many organic options are now available at chain supermarkets as well as specialty stores.

The USDA National Organic Program guidelines specify that only food products that contain 95-100% certified organic ingredients may use the USDA organic seal. In order to use the seal, food must not be grown using pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, genetic modification, or germ-killing radiation; and organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products must come from animals that were not given antibiotics or growth hormones. By using organically grown food, meats, and dairy, you are supporting farmers and ranchers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water.



As part of your purchasing policy, consider buying local if possible. You can save money and support local farmers and communities by purchasing and serving locally grown foods. You may be able to participate in a community supported agriculture program (CSA), which connects local farmers with local consumers to encourage a strong local economy.

To help you get started on creating an

environmentally-friendly plan for your food and beverage operations, follow these three simple steps:

- **Evaluate current purchasing practices.** Identify what you are buying and where you are buying it from – that's your baseline. Now you can determine what environmentally preferable foods you could offer to park visitors.
- **Talk to suppliers.** Work with your suppliers to identify products that are organically- or locally-grown. If they don't have any, inform them of your interest in these products. Also look at the Organic Trade Association's website and its "Organic Pages Online," a directory to industry listings by company name, brand name, business type, supply chain, and general products and services.
- **Develop and implement a purchasing policy.** Identify factors that will guide your company in choosing what products to buy and serve and then communicate this policy to your staff and suppliers.

No matter what the food product, there is a good chance that a locally grown or organic substitute exists. For instance, if you sell ice cream, you could offer ice cream made from organic milk. If you use produce, you could shop at a nearby farmer's market or make arrangements with area farmers to supply seasonal fruits and vegetables. Some concessioners are now serving sustainable seafood and free-range, hormone-free poultry and cattle. These products may be available in your area.

Finally, educate customers about your use of organic and sustainable products and their many benefits, including reduced pesticide use, the support of local markets, healthier lifestyles, and a healthier environment.

RESOURCES:

- USDA organic standards: www.ams.usda.gov/nop
- Organic Trade Association: www.ota.com. Check "Organic Pages Online."
- CSAs: www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa

2002: A Year In Review for the CEAS (continued from page 1)

The second most prevalent type of Audit Findings for 2002 related to the Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134). Concessioners either did not have or were missing elements of a Respiratory Protection Program. Some concessioners did not know a written Respiratory Protection Program was needed when concessioner staff were required to wear tight-fitting respirators, which include filtering facepieces (dust masks). Others were not aware of requirements to be followed when allowing concessioner staff to voluntarily wear tight-fitting respirators (e.g., providing medical evaluations and information found in Appendix D of the Respiratory Protection Standard).

Hazardous materials management Audit Findings were applicable to many concessioner facilities. One common issue observed was not having compressed gas cylinders secured so they could not fall over and not labeling compressed gas cylinders (e.g., contents and whether cylinders were full, empty, or in use). Another common issue involved storing hazardous substances, such as oils near or over environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., water) without secondary containment.

An additional common Audit Finding identified that many concessioners did not have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) (29 CFR 1910.38) and/or Emergency Response Program (ERP) (29 CFR 1910.120), or their EAP and/or ERP were not complete. The EAP and/or ERP identify concessioner roles and responsibilities if a hazardous substance spill or release was to occur.

A number of concessioners audited during 2002 stated they were classified as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) of hazardous waste. To be considered a CESQG, concessioners must generate less than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of hazardous waste per month. A commonly recommended BMP for CESQGs is to manage some specific hazardous wastes, such as fluorescent lamps and some types of

batteries, as universal wastes. Managing these items as universal wastes includes labeling and storage requirements.

Environmental Management System (EMS) Audit Findings continue to be applicable to most concessioners. The EMS is a way in which a concessioner can help manage all of its environmental issues, including those described in this article and listed in Table 2. Development and implementation of an Environmental Management Program (EMP), a type of EMS, is a requirement for all Category I and II Concession Contracts issued after April 17, 2000. Unless a concessioner is operating under a new Concession Contract, EMS Audit Findings are ranked as Priority 3s since they are not yet a contractual requirement.

Table 2: CY2002 Top Six Environmental Issues Identified During CEAS Audits

EnviroCheck Sheet	% of Environmental Issues by Priority			
	1	2	3a	3b
Hazard Communication	0	90	10	0
Respiratory Protection	2	92	6	0
Hazardous Materials Management	0	52	48	0
Emergency Response Planning and Reporting	0	83	17	0
Universal Waste Management	0	0	100	0
Environmental Management Systems	0	0	32	68

Next Steps

Based upon the 2002 trends, the CoEMP will continue to identify and develop assistance tools to assist concessioners in understanding applicable environmental regulations and issues and identifying cost-effective solutions appropriate to their business. Concessioners may want to use the “common” environmental trends identified in Table 2 to identify and address environmental issues that may apply to their services and facilities.

RESOURCES: The concessioner-specific assistance resources listed below (and others) are available to concessioners free from the CoEMP.

- Guidance for Developing a Written Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) Program
- Guidance for Conducting Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) Training
- Guidance for Developing a Written Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)
- Guidance for Writing an Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
- Guidance for Writing an Emergency Response Program (ERP)
- Guidance for Managing Universal Waste

The CoEMP will develop an assistance resource to address hazardous materials management issues in 2004.

Concessioner-specific guidance on developing an EMP is forthcoming. However, other free guidance materials to assist concessioners in developing an EMS available from the CoEMP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, include:

- Practical Guide to Environmental Management for Small Businesses.
- Environmental Management Systems: An Implementation Guide for Small and Medium-sized Organizations.
- U.S. EPA EMS Website: www.epa.gov/ems/index.htm

Forever Committed to the Environment

By Don Wallace, Senior Vice President, Forever Resorts

Visitors walking into the Trail Ridge Store at Rocky Mountain National Park (NP) have their breath taken away – by the panoramic view of the mountains, by the altitude of 11,986 feet, and by the number of environmentally preferable gifts and souvenirs available for sale.

Since we began in 1981, Forever Resorts has been committed to exceeding customer expectations – including the development of an environmental purchasing program. With retail operations in Mammoth Cave NP, Grand Teton NP, Rocky Mountain NP, Big Bend NP, Blue Ridge Parkway, and several other recreational areas, we travel the country attending gift and handicraft shows, search the Internet, and network with other vendors to identify arts, gifts, and souvenirs that interpret and foster awareness and understanding of each park and its resources and are environmentally preferable.

While identifying thematic handmade quality products for each of our retail locations, we discovered that many of our vendors produce their items in an environmentally preferable manner. Many use only natural, re-

newable products in making their products, such as standing dead aspen wood legally obtained from outside a national park. Many reuse packaging in creative ways, such as shipping their products to us in recycled cardboard beer cases. Others have adopted an environmentally friendly lifestyle to demonstrate their environmental commitment, from being vegetarians to living in solar-powered homes.

Over the past five years, we have developed a list of questions that we ask potential vendors to determine whether their products will meet our environ-

mentally preferable standards. Identifying these criteria occurred as a natural outgrowth of what we learned from our vendors. We may ask if merchandise:

- Is made from recycled materials, such as milk bottles and/or “earth-wise” materials, such as organic cotton.
- Is packaged with packaging that is recycled and/or has minimal packaging.
- Has product labels interpreting why it is environmentally preferable and/or encourages consumers to protect natural resources.
- Promotes conservation of natural resources, such as reusable mugs and bags.

Vendors who meet our environmentally preferable criteria have their



Back of Ecogecko tag reads “Forever Resorts is committed to the preservation and protection of our natural resources. This item is made from reclaimed or recycled materials and/or is made by a vendor partner that observes environmentally responsible practices.”

products labeled with a Forever Resorts-designed “Ecogecko” tag. In-store signs tell consumers about the significance of Ecogecko tags and specifically describe why merchandise is labeled as such.

For customers’ purchases, we use shopping bags made of post-consumer recycled paper that have an environmental message printed on them. We also reuse the packing peanuts and cardboard collected from prior shipments.

The response of our customers to our environmental purchasing program has been positive. As a result, we will continue to focus on providing thematic handmade quality products that are environmentally preferable.

RESOURCE: www.foreverresorts.com

Clean Energy Solution Blowing in the Wind at Grand Teton

By Julie Klein, Environmental Manager, Grand Teton Lodge Company



View of Grand Teton Lodge Company’s Main Lodge at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

When considering innovative ways to expand the use of alternative energy in Grand Teton National Park (NP), the Grand Teton Lodge Company (GTLC) turned to one of the most abundant and clean renewable resources in the west – the steady gust of Wyoming wind.

Beginning in 2002, GTLC started investing in “green fuels” by purchasing enough wind-generated energy to power the lodge at Jenny Lake. The wind power is purchased through a local energy supplier and is generated from wind farms in southern Wyoming and the Foote Creek Two turbines near Laramie.

Why look to alternative sources of electricity, such as wind, to power the guest facilities at Jenny Lake? After all, GTLC pays a slight premium for the wind-generated power, and Wyoming’s energy heritage is more deeply rooted in traditional and widely established sources like coal.

“Simple,” said Clay James, president of GTLC. “Buying wind energy is important for the positive contribution it makes to the environment, but it can also be an effective tool for educating visitors on other ways they can protect the valuable natural resources around them.

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Clean Energy Solution Blowing in the Wind at Grand Teton

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“Clearly our success as a company is closely tied to the long-term health and preservation of Grand Teton National Park,” James said. “By making the use of clean power a centerpiece of our sustainability mission, we are able to demonstrate that our commitment goes beyond what is expected and that positive steps can be taken that conserve resources.”

The GTLC estimates that their annual investment in clean and renewable wind power at Jenny Lake Lodge (160,000 kWh) saves 80 tons of coal from burning and eliminates 160 tons of carbon dioxide pollution, the leading greenhouse gas.

The early success of the program and the public’s encouraging response has GTLC looking at future applications for using alternative energy throughout their facilities within Grand Teton NP. In May 2003, GTLC began a partnership with Grand Teton NP to expand the use of biodiesel within the park. GTLC diesel buses and trucks will all be fueled at the park service’s biodiesel station at Colter Bay.



Foote Creek Rim wind project near Arlington, Wyoming that helps supply the electricity for Jenny Lake Lodge at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

“Wind power is definitely something that will continue to expand,” James said. “While it’s only a part of a comprehensive strategy to protect and conserve resources in Grand Teton, it’s another way for us to connect with visitors and introduce them to our environmental program, including recycling and educating visitors on ‘green’ products. It will be a business approach that in the long run benefits all of us.”

RESOURCE: www.gtlc.com/environmental

Greening the Brown Coffee Bean

By Chris Lane, Director of Environmental Affairs, and Tim Stein, Director of Food and Beverage, Xanterra Parks & Resorts



Environmentally preferable coffee served at Xanterra Parks & Resorts locations

So what’s the big deal about coffee? Who cares if it’s “green” as long as it tastes good and gives a caffeine boost?

Xanterra Parks & Resorts embarked on a coffee crusade

to find the best coffee company partner – a company that not only provides the highest quality coffee, but one that is also in tune with our sustainability beliefs and practices through the products and services they offer.

One aspect of our company’s mission is to reduce the environmental impact of our purchases while providing high quality food and beverages to our guests and employees. We call it Sustainable Cuisine, which is one component of our Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) protocol. Through our EPP protocol, we purchase products and services based not only on quality and price, but also environmental impact.

We first researched the coffee industry to determine exactly what the most environmentally preferable coffee on the market was and what actually makes a coffee “green.”

We found out that environmentally preferable, or “green,” coffee is produced in a way that supports wildlife and migratory bird habitat by preserving forest ecosystems. The coffee beans are organically grown without the use of pesticides. The coffee is farmed using a shade growing method that requires only partial cutting of the rainforest, which protects bird habitats that provide a winter home to migratory birds, such as those that reside in our national parks. Fair Trade Certified coffee means it is purchased from small farmers and farmer co-ops at a fair price.

Next we researched several companies to learn more about their products, clients, business practices, beliefs, and values. Some of the key criteria we used to select our coffee supplier included:

- Product quality
- Price, pack size, and yield
- Environmental impact and certifications
- Distribution
- Equipment support and service
- Training, marketing, and merchandising support
- Company mission and values

We interviewed coffee purveyors, conducted “cuppings” (tastings), and we even researched the environmental missions of the coffee companies themselves. Then we requested proposals from each company that met our criteria.

When our research was completed, Xanterra Parks & Resorts chose Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. since it best embodied the criteria we established. Organic Fair Trade Certified coffee typically costs more than conventional coffees, but when that extra cost is divided on a per cup basis, the extra cost is only pennies more per cup.

We now serve organic Fair Trade Certified Green Mountain coffee at most of our national park operations, such as Grand Canyon National Park (NP) and Yellowstone NP. Our guests have commented positively on this decision, resulting in a winning combination that has allowed us to maintain a high quality of service while supporting businesses and practices that minimize impacts to the environment.



RESOURCES: www.xanterra.com, www.transfairusa.org

Much Ado about Environmental Purchasing

What exactly is environmental purchasing (EP)?

It is buying products and services that are better for the environment.

Environmental purchasing is also known by the terms “green procurement,” “green purchasing,” and “environmentally preferable purchasing.”

Since 1976, there have been a series of environmental purchasing mandates and policies implemented that identify guidelines and criteria for Federal agencies when purchasing products and services. The intent of these mandates and policies is to drive the market for “greener” products while improving the

Concessioners may have environmental purchasing requirements or criteria in their Concession Contracts.

overall environmental performance of the Federal government. While these mandates and policies may not always be directly applicable or appropriate

for concession operations, concessioners may want to consider them when establishing criteria for an EP strategy.

Mandates and Policies

- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, Section 6002¹**. Established the Federal government’s “buy-recycled” program. Requires all agencies to purchase US Environmental Protection Agency-designated products with the highest recovered content level practicable.
- **Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct)¹**. Directs the Department of Energy to establish guidelines to encourage the

acquisition and use of energy-efficient products by all Federal agencies.

- **Executive Order 13101: Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition²**. Requires agencies to establish long-term goals both for waste prevention and recycling and for buying recycled and EP products.
- **Executive Order 13123: Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management²**. Directs agencies to select US EPA Energy Star labeled products.
- **Executive Order 13148: Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management²**. Contains numerous provisions to achieve reductions in the use and release of toxic chemicals.
- **Executive Order 13149: Greening the Government through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency²**. Directs agencies to reduce annual petroleum fuel consumption through improvements in fleet fuel efficiency and use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and alternative fuels.
- **Strategic Plan for Greening the Department of the Interior through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition³**. States that the Department of the Interior will minimize solid waste, prevent pollution, save energy and other resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and encourage public support and participation.

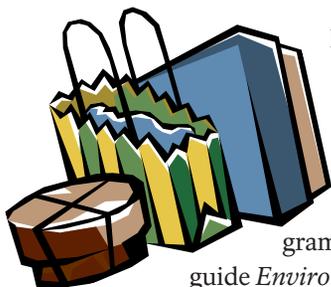
¹Laws can be found at www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode

²Executive Orders can be found at www.archives.gov/federal_register/executive_orders/executive_orders.html

³Strategic plan can be found at webteam.nbc.gov/green/charter.html

Support the Environment: Shop Until You’re Green

A number of organizations and Federal agencies assist businesses in purchasing environmentally preferable (EP) products such as Green Seal, www.greenseal.org, the Federal Environmental Management Program, www.eere.energy.gov/femp, and Energy Star, www.energystar.gov. There are even suppliers and specialty stores for EP products such as The Green Store, www.greenstore.com, Green Pages Online, www.greenpages.org, and the Environmental Home Center, www.environmentalhomecenter.com.



However, there are two additional resources that can help you develop a comprehensive environmental purchasing program: the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Environmentally Preferable Program Guiding Principles and the NPS

guide *Environmental Purchasing in the National Park Service*. A summary of the guiding principles found in these resources is:

1. **Considering environmental attributes and/or impacts** as part of your purchasing decision-making process, in addition to considering traditional factors such as product safety, cost, performance, and market availability.
2. **Identifying and integrating environmental attributes and/or impacts early** in the purchasing decision-making process, and identifying opportunities to reduce and/or eliminate waste. You may decide only to purchase locally available (e.g., within a 100-mile radius) products and/or services to minimize transportation costs and support local markets. You could also ask vendors to reduce product packaging to help your business eliminate waste.
3. **Considering the life cycle** of products and/or services to identify the best value for your dollar. For example, to understand the actual cost of a product, you should identify all costs associated with the product, including capital, installation, operating, maintenance, and disposal costs.

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Shop Until You're Green

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4. **Comparing and contrasting environmental impacts** of acquiring one product and/or service over another. It is not always clear which environmentally preferable product and/or service you should choose. For example, should you purchase reusable dishes that increase water usage from dishwashing or should you purchase biodegradable plates that increase solid waste? The answer may depend on your park's priorities – water conservation or waste reduction. Also do not forget the positive environmental impacts that may result from purchasing environmentally preferable products; for example, if you buy less toxic cleaning products, it may result in a safer, healthier workplace for employees.
5. **Determining if a product and/or service meets quality standards** for your operations because not all products and/or services are applicable or appropriate for every situation or operation. You may want to consider testing a product and/or service on a limited basis before deciding to use it wholesale throughout your operations. Solicit input from your staff on whether a product and/or service works, and use this information to guide your acquisition decision-making process.

If you find a product and/or service that works well for your operations but is cost-prohibitive, consider partnering with your park and other businesses to leverage purchasing power. You can also use these partnerships to convince manufacturers and/or suppliers that a demand for environmentally preferable products exists in your area.

Wood and Recycled Composite Lumber Picnic Table: A Quick Life Cycle Assessment Comparison

Recycled composite lumber is lumber typically manufactured from post-consumer recycled materials, such as a mixture of sawdust and plastic.

A recycled composite lumber picnic table may have a higher initial cost than a traditional wood picnic table. However, consider:

- Recycled composite lumber does not need to be painted, but wood tables may need to be painted and repaired on a recurring basis.
- Recycled composite lumber typically has a longer lifespan (e.g., for decades) than wood.

Therefore, the "life cycle" cost of the environmentally preferable recycled composite lumber picnic table may be equal or less than the life cycle cost of the wood picnic table.

RESOURCES:

- US EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program: www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/index.htm
- US EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program guiding principles: www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/guidance/fivegp.htm
- *Environmental Purchasing in the National Park Service*, 303/987-6913.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

You may already be recycling paper, glass, plastic, and other items at your operations. But there's no use recycling if someone's not buying and using your recycled items. To help close the recycling loop, your business should encourage the purchase of recycled-content products.

But how do you know what products are made from recycled materials and where to purchase these products? To help with making these decisions, the Federal government developed the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) Program. This program supports the government's overall "buy-recycled" program, which requires Federal agencies to purchase products made from recycled materials. As a result, demand is increasing for recycled-content products, which has helped lower costs and increase the number and variety of products.

Some of the products included in the CPG Program include:



1. **Construction Products.**
Building insulation, carpet, paint, etc.



2. **Vehicular Products.**
Antifreeze, oil, tires, etc.



3. **Transportation Products.**
Parking stops, traffic barricades, traffic cones, etc.



4. **Landscaping Products.**
Garden hoses, hydraulic mulch, compost, etc.



5. **Park and Recreation Products.**
Plastic fencing, park benches, park picnic tables, etc.



6. **Non-Paper Office Products.**
Office recycling containers and waste receptacles, plastic desktop accessories, plastic binders, etc.



7. **Paper and Paper Products.**
Copier paper, bathroom tissue, folding cartons, etc.



8. **Miscellaneous Products/Maintenance Supplies.**
Sorbents, mats, pallets, etc.

The CPG website provides product information and specifications and also identifies suppliers for a variety of recycled content products. This website could be a useful resource to assist you in your efforts of identifying recycled content materials and suppliers for your business.

RESOURCE: Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) Program at www.epa.gov/cpg

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CoEMP Corner: Building Bridges



NPS Director Fran P. Maniella and former US EPA Administrator Christine T. Whitman shaking hands after signing the Memorandum of Understanding

The NPS cooperates with partners to protect, preserve, and conserve our national parks. Our relationship with concessioners is a partnership that allows for the provision of accommodations, services, and facilities necessary and appropriate to enjoy our park resources.

In addition to partnering with concessioners, the NPS earlier this year formed a partnership with a nonregulatory program within the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). This new partnership was finalized on March 13, 2003 when NPS Director Fran P. Maniella and former EPA Administrator Christine T. Whitman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The NPS Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP) and the US EPA National Center for Environmental Innovation will be working together to promote environmental management systems (EMSs) for businesses and identifying cost-effective and business-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs). As a result, concessioners

can receive free assistance from both the CoEMP and US EPA when developing Environment Management Programs (EMPs) and identifying and implementing BMPs.

One of the BMPs advocated by both agencies is environmental purchasing, which is the focus for this *GreenLine* issue. Considering environmental factors when making purchases is an important component of an EMP. It can build upon a concessioner's environmental goals for reducing solid waste. By "buying green," concessioners can also increase environmental awareness among park visitors and help stimulate markets for environmentally preferable products and services.

By establishing an environmental purchasing program and integrating it into an EMP, we continue to support environmental strategies that help conserve, preserve, and protect national park resources. We encourage you to utilize the assistance resources that the US EPA and the NPS have developed as you develop, or continue to improve, your environmental purchasing programs and EMPs.

Wendy M. Berhman
Team Leader
Concession Environmental Management Program

US EPA Small Business Division:
www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org or www.epa.gov/eftpages/indusmallbusinesses.html.

GreenLine Assistance

If you require technical assistance on environmental issues or want to learn more about the Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP), contact us by phone or email:

GreenLine Number:
303/987-6913



Email:
NPS_GreenLine@nps.gov

