



Federal Government Leading by Example

Greening the Government conference
June 2003

Why Electronics?



- Electronics are the fastest growing portion of the municipal waste stream
 - 1988, 20 million obsolete
 - Only 11% recycled
 - 2004, 315 million obsolete?
 - 4 billion pounds of plastic
 - 1 billion pounds of lead
 - 2 million pounds of cadmium
 - 400,000 pounds of mercury

Why Electronics

- Electronic Products are Hazardous
 - Contain lead, mercury, cadmium, zinc, brominated flame retardants
 - TVs and computer monitors contain up to 4 pounds of lead EACH.
 - Lead is fused with the CRT glass as a radiation shield – difficult to separate and no current market for leaded glass



Why the Federal Government

- Spent **\$5 billion** on computers alone in 1996
 - 3.7% of the total market.
- IT Technology spending is increasing – from \$45B (2003) to \$68B (2008)
- Replacement cycles of 3-4 years - With 1.8 million employees and a 3 yr cycle – the Government discards approximately 10,000 computers/week
- Significant amount ends up in the landfill.

Background

- Many efforts are underway to develop “green” products or processes
 - Modular computers that can be easily upgraded
 - Reducing waste by products during production of electronics
 - Producing electronics with less toxic materials
 - Energy Star compliance for energy reduction
 - Leasing programs to eliminate user responsibility for disposal
 - Recycle/Reclamation

Typical life span of a Federal PC

- Procurement (6 months)
- Operations (3-4 years)
- Storage (2-3 years) “Just in case its needed”
- Final Disposition
 - Schools and Non-profits
 - Typically, computers that are 5-7 years old are of no use to schools and are more and more being refused
 - Sold in Lots through GSA to “lowest bidder”
 - GSA typically bundles one or 2 “good” PCs with the obsolete ones. The lot is sold, the good ones refurbished, the others sent to landfills.
 - Possible disposal by exporting to Pacific Rim



A challenge to federal facilities and agencies to:

- Purchase greener electronic products
- Reduce “use” phase impacts of electronic products
- Manage electronic assets at end of life in an environmentally safe way.

Goals of the Challenge

- To address the environmental impact of the electronics in the federal workplace throughout the life-cycle of the electronic, particularly
 - **Reduce** the generation of e-waste by
 - Purchasing greener electronic products
 - Managing electronic assets in an environmentally sound manner
 - **Reuse** still functioning electronic equipment by donating it to someone who can use it.
 - **Recycle** electronic equipment at the end-of-life stage



Why the Challenge

- Federal Memorandum of Understanding on Improving the Environmental Management of Electronic Assets
- Ongoing National Dialogue on Electronics Product Stewardship



Steering Committee Partners

- Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
- Environmental Protection Agency
 - OPPT, OSW, Region 5, 9 and 10, and the Office of Environmental Information
- Department of Defense
 - Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service
- Federal Network for Sustainability
- General Services Administration



Key Components

- Outreach and Education
- A menu of options allowing facilities to choose actions that support their activities
- Technical Assistance
- Tiers of achievement
- National Awards sponsored by the White House Task Force on Recycling



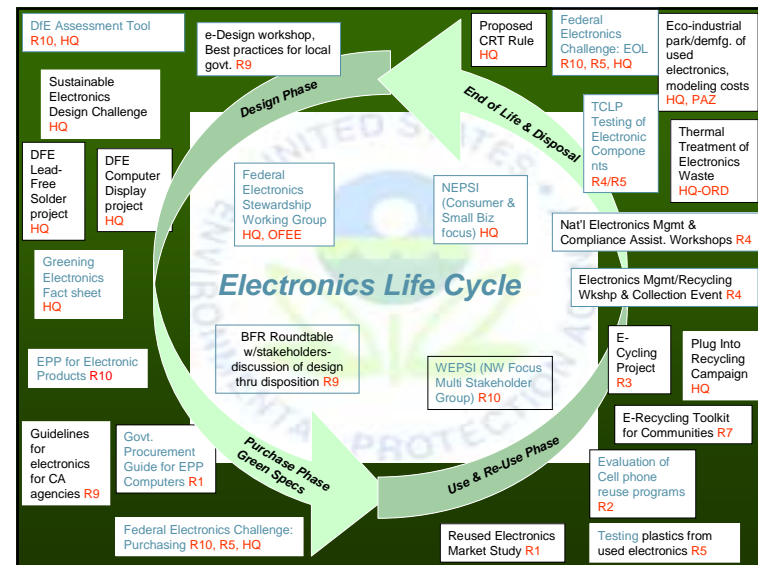
Signing Up

- Sign a Pledge
- Identify goals and challenge level
- Complete survey
- Limited reporting on progress
- Participate in bimonthly information sharing conference calls



Timing

- Pilot in 2003
 - Several Federal Agency Headquarter Offices
 - 3-5 Facilities per region
 - Technical Assistance
 - May 2003 to April 2004
- National Implementation in 2004
 - Kickoff in approximately May 2004



Resources

- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program
<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/>
- Federal Network for Sustainability (FNS)
<http://www.federalsustainability.org>
- Federal Environmental Executive
<http://www.ofee.gov>
- National Electronics Products Stewardship Initiative
<http://www.epa.gov/epr/>
- Design for the Environment (DfE)
<http://www.epa.gov/dfe/>
- Energy Star
<http://www.energystar.gov/>
- Demanufacturing of Electronic Equipment for Reuse and Recycling
<http://www.deer2.com/>

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For more information

- Visit the web site at www.federalelectronicschallenge.net



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