

## Introducing the Federal Electronics Challenge

**T**he Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) is a partnership program that empowers federal agencies and facilities to manage their electronics in an environmentally sound manner during all three life-cycle phases—acquisition and procurement, operation and maintenance, and end-of-life management. The FEC provides Partners with resources and technical assistance, and gives annual recognition to Partners that have achieved specific goals. The FEC is open to all federal agencies and facilities. The FEC is managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

### Why Electronics?

The purchasing, use, and disposition of electronics, such as computers, printers, and mobile phones, has significant environmental impacts. Electronic equipment may contain toxic constituents, consume significant energy during use, and present complex challenges when disposed of. These characteristics present opportunities and responsibilities in managing electronic products to reduce the environmental impacts associated with each phase of the electronics life-cycle acquisition and procurement, operation and maintenance, and end-of-life management.

### Why Should the Federal Government Get Involved?

The federal government, which purchases billions of dollars' worth of information technology equipment and services annually, has the opportunity to provide leadership in the environmentally sound and cost effective management of electronic assets throughout their life-cycle. Purchasing or leasing new equipment provides the opportunity to obtain environmentally preferable electronics. Appropriate management of equipment during use can reduce energy use and extend the life of electronics. Disposition of electronics provides the opportunity for reuse or environmentally responsible recycling. The FEC assists federal agencies and facilities become leaders in electronics stewardship and face the challenges posed by electronics acquisition, use and disposal.

### What Are the Benefits of Joining the FEC?

Partners receive a variety of benefits as they participate in the challenge, including:

- Resources for developing, implementing, and improving an electronics stewardship program.
- Educational training and feedback through monthly partner calls and an annual conference.
- Technical assistance through individual support.
- Networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing.
- Cost savings through resource efficiency, energy savings, and equipment maintenance practices.
- National recognition from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

## What Is the Goal of the FEC?

The national program goals of the FEC are as follows:

- By 2010, 95% of eligible electronic equipment purchased or leased annually by FEC Partners is EPEAT-registered.
- By 2010, 100% of eligible computers and monitors in operation at FEC Partner facilities have ENERGY STAR® features enabled.
- By 2010, electronic equipment in operation at FEC Partner facilities have an average life span of at least four years.
- By 2010, 100% percent of non-reusable electronic equipment disposed of annually by FEC Partner facilities is recycled using environmentally sound management, as defined by EPA's Plug-In To eCycling guidance.

## What Is the FEC Recognition Program?

The FEC has an annual recognition and awards program to celebrate the electronics stewardship achievements of leaders in the federal community. Partners can apply for recognition at one of four levels—bronze, silver, gold, or platinum—based on the completion of required activities in the three electronics life-cycle phases. Only FEC Partners can apply for an award.

## What Tools and Resources Are Available to FEC Partners?

- **Web site.** The FEC Web site <[www.federalelectronicschallenge.net](http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net)> is a one-stop shop for information on greening electronics management and being an FEC Partner. The Web site provides access to program information, tools and resources, and news and events.
- **Listserve.** The FEC listserve provides an opportunity for federal staff to exchange information on topics related to electronics management. The listserve, which is only available to Partners, is an important forum for communication between facilities and agencies working toward the same goals.
- **RSS Feed.** The FEC has an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed to provide up-to-date news and information to our partners and other interested parties.
- **Teleconferences.** Each month, the FEC offers a free, educational teleconference for its Partners. These teleconferences typically run one hour and cover topics of high interest to facilities and agencies, such as how to green procurement and how to choose an environmentally responsible recycler.

## Questions?

If you have a question about the FEC, please contact us at <[info@electronicschallenge.net](mailto:info@electronicschallenge.net)>.



The FEC is a partnership program that encourages federal facilities and agencies to purchase greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. For more information, visit <[www.federalelectronicschallenge.net](http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net)>.