



●●● Update on Electronics Management Programs ●●●

Provided as a service to Partners of the Federal Electronics Challenge

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The following program updates are intended to provide background and update information about on-going electronics management programs of interest to Partners of the Federal Electronics Challenge. Some of this material has been extracted from program websites. URL's have been provided when possible, though not all will remain current indefinitely. For past updates, please visit the FEC website at <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net>.

TOPICS:

- [Federal Electronics Challenge](#)
- [Office Depot and HP to Offer Industry's First Free Nationwide In-Store Electronics Recycling Program](#)
- [A-maize-ing Plastics](#)
- [Sony and Matsushita Help Expand Web Tool to Manage High-Tech Product Compliance](#)
- [UPS to Help Companies Manage Unwanted Electronics](#)
- [Toxic dust from computers linked to disease](#)
- ['Thin client' computing pushed as Windows alternative](#)
- [Recycling The HP Way](#)
- [Florida Electronics Study](#)
- [Hong Kong is cracking down on illegal imports of e-scrap](#)

Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC)

What's new with the FEC: There are new presentations available on the website covering the topics of "How to Choose a Recycler" and "FEC Stakeholders". You can access PDF and Powerpoint versions at:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/presenta.htm>, under End-of-Life Management and Program Overview, respectively.

The Pilot Phase of the FEC has come to a close, with participation from GSA, NASA, EPA, DOD, DOI and DOE facilities. The National FEC Program will be launched in October, 2004.

Also of note, the EPA's Plug-In-To-E-Cycling Program has released guidelines for selecting an electronics recycler:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin/resources.htm>.

The FEC's End-of-Life management tools are designed to coordinate with the Plug-In Guidelines. Visit: <http://www.federalelectronicchallenge.net/eolmngt.htm>.

And finally, to provide a sense of scale of federal IT purchases, an agency-by-agency breakdown of President Bush's information technology funding requests for fiscal 2005 totals \$56 billion. Topping the list is the Defense Department, at \$27 billion. www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0202/web-spending-02-02-04.asp

Upcoming FEC Meetings:

- Energy Star and other Labels; September 9th

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If you represent a federal facility and would like more information on becoming an FEC federal facility partner, signing the pledge, upcoming FEC conference calls, and other activities, please visit the website at <http://www.federalelectronicchallenge.net> or contact Vicky Salazar at vicky.salazar@epamail.epa.gov.

Office Depot and HP to Offer Industry's First Free Nationwide In-Store Electronics Recycling Program

On July 18, 2004, Office Depot and Hewlett-Packard will launch a nationwide initiative to take back most standard consumer electronics (cell phones, pagers, PDAs, computers and small TVs 27" and smaller) in stores at no fee to the consumer. Office Depot will accept one product per day, per person at its locations nationwide. As the first free nationwide initiative of its kind, the program has enormous implications for the electronics recycling landscape and is an exemplary demonstration of Plug-In to eCycling's goal of expanding opportunities to recycle obsolete electronics. Large scale private sector electronics takeback programs undertaken without federal legislation illustrate what voluntary programs can achieve when market leaders become engaged in low-cost solutions to environmental concerns.

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin/officedep.htm>

A-maize-ing Plastics

Sony and Mitsubishi Plastic have overcome one of the shortcomings of eco-friendly plastics by developing a new corn-based plastic that's flame-retardant. The material incorporates an unidentified inorganic flame retardant and is as strong as the ABS resin widely used for casings. The recyclable, decomposable plastic will appear in DVD players in fall 2004. Currently Sony uses corn-based plastics in the components or packaging for only a few products, and only in Japan. One of its Walkman products has a housing that is 90% vegetable-derived, using only 40% of the petroleum of conventional plastics reducing the CO2 emissions related to plastics manufacture by 20%.

For more information, please see:

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2004/112-8/forum.html>

Sony and Matsushita Help Expand Web Tool to Manage High-Tech Product Compliance

The electronics industry is being confronted with strict environmental requirements that impact the way that products are designed and sold in global markets. This is particularly significant given recent European Union (EU) Directives that govern the design and end-of-life management of electrical and electronic equipment, and the expansion of the EU via Eastern European countries. Producers and distributors must be well informed throughout the design and approvals process. Such factors have motivated the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), an Arlington, Va.-based trade association that represents more than 2,300 members of the global electronics industry, to develop an online tool that covers all significant environmental product-related regulations pertaining to EIA member companies. There are currently over 40 global electronics companies using EIATRACK.

Learn more at

<http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=26814>http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=26814.

UPS to Help Companies Manage Unwanted Electronics

Article Excerpt: ATLANTA, May 12, 2004 - [UPS Supply Chain Solutions](#) has announced a new service that helps companies properly manage the disposition of used and obsolete electronic goods and components.

Through its new Asset Recovery and Recycling Management service, UPS Supply Chain Solutions oversees the final disposition of these electronics through repair, recycling or disposal in an environmentally safe manner, all while controlling logistics-related activities....

....According to the International Association of Electronics Recyclers' 2003 industry report, "there are more than 500 million units of computer equipment (CPUs, monitors, printers) currently installed in the USA from all sectors, including consumer, that will be obsolete in less than five years."....

....With government enforcement of proper handling standards increasing globally, the new service is designed to help companies address the fragmented logistics processes to reclaim these goods from many locations, the high costs of managing returns, and the liability associated with this activity if done incorrectly. UPS's Asset Recovery and Recycling Management service provides companies with a single point of contact, enhanced visibility and tracking and governmentally compliant documentation.....

Read more at http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=26760.

Toxic dust from computers linked to disease

Article Experts: Researchers collected samples of dust from dozens of computers

in eight states, including university computer labs in New York, Michigan and Texas, legislative offices in California, and an interactive computer display at a children's museum in Maine.

They tested for three types of brominated flame retardants suspected of being hazardous.

The most toxic piece of equipment discovered by the researchers was a new flat-screen monitor in a university in New York, implying that newer equipment isn't necessarily cleaner.

Penta- and octa-brominated diphenyl will be taken off the market by the end of the year. Environmental groups are demanding legislation that would ban deca-brominated diphenyl, too.

PBDEs, which have caused neurological damage in laboratory rats in numerous studies, are related to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs have been used in fire extinguishers, fluorescent lights and liquid insulators since the 1920s.....

Read more at:

<http://newpaper.asia1.com.sg/top/story/0,4136,64748,00.html>

'Thin client' computing pushed as Windows alternative

Wednesday, July 28, 2004 Posted: 10:22 AM EDT (1422 GMT)

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/biztech/07/28/thinner.computing.ap/index.html>
7/28/04 TECHNOLOGY SECTION OF CNN.COM

Excerpt: SOMERS, New York (AP) -- The idea is straightforward: Instead of giving employees computers packed with features they rarely use, companies could save tons of cash by distributing simple machines tied to powerful central servers.

Computing vendors have had marginal success over the years with variations of this "thin client" concept. Now IBM Corp. is betting that with some tweaks, the technology can become a big hit, challenging the traditional approach pushed by Microsoft Corp.....

Recycling The HP Way

http://www.forbes.com/2004/07/30/cz_cs_0730recycle.html

Computer Hardware & Software

Chana Schoenberger, 07.30.04, 6:00 AM ET

When Hewlett-Packard replaced a piece of electronic equipment in its own offices, the company used to send the item out to be refurbished or, if it was broken beyond repair, stripped down and sold off in parts.

But HP (nyse: HP - news - people) realized that its castoffs were ending up in Third World countries, often disassembled under dangerous working conditions or disposed of in suspect ways. So in 1995, it started its own recycling center in Roseville, Calif., to service the castoffs of both HP and its customers. While other tech manufacturers have take-back programs, none run recycling plants.

Renee St. Denis spearheaded that first recycling center. "It didn't seem like the right thing for HP to do, environmentally and financially," she says of HP's pre-center strategy, "because it was clear that there would be major cleanup costs."

The California plant, a joint venture with Toronto-based mining company Noranda (nyse: NRD - news - people), recycles 3.5 million pounds of electronic waste annually. The majority still comes from HP, including computers coming off lease. The remainder is from customers who pay HP to recycle their electronics, at about \$21 per PC, including shipping. In 2001, HP and Noranda opened a second recycling plant in a suburb south of Nashville.

HP is trying to make recycling easier by using a uniform labeling system for all its plastic components. Next, the company plans to embed a chip that contains recycling instructions in all its products. Says David Lear, director of HP's environmental strategies and sustainability group, "It's going to happen in our future."

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Florida Electronics Study

Now available on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Website <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/electronics/default.htm>

State of Electronics in Florida Households: 2003 Residential Household
Electronics Survey

In the summer of 2003 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, in partnership with Seminole County, proposed a follow-up survey to the 2000 survey of Florida households to find out whether Florida's residential population had changed its practices for handling, recycling, and disposing of televisions and computer monitors. In addition, the partners wanted to gauge whether household awareness of the hazardous properties associated with CRTs (cathode ray tubes) in televisions and computer monitors had changed.

The scope of electronic products was expanded to collect information about the ownership, handling, recycling, and disposing of computers (desktop and laptop) and about the ownership of other common household electronics (microwaves, VCRs, DVDs, stereo components, cell phones, printers, video game systems, and flat panel monitors). This report presents the results of that survey and a comparison with the earlier survey conducted in 2000.

Hong Kong is cracking down on illegal imports of e-scrap

Customs seizes \$920,000 worth of e-waste and unmanifested goods

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (July 21) seized \$920,000 worth of hazardous electronic waste and smuggled goods from an inbound 40-foot container imported from Canada during a joint operation with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

The operation aimed at clamping down on the importation of hazardous wastes controlled under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

While examining a consignment from Vancouver declared as metal scraps at the Kwai Chung Container Terminals at 4pm, Customs officers found unmanifested software compact discs, computer monitors and accessories, as well as 30 used TV sets and 265 cathode-ray tubes and 330 used computer monitors. The total seizure was worth about \$920,000.

A Customs and Excise Department spokesman said today (July 22) that follow-up investigations by both departments were under way. The used TV monitors and cathode-ray tubes and used computer monitors had been handed over to EPD officers for further investigation.

Customs officers have been conducting joint operations with EPD officers since February to combat illegal import of hazardous electronic wastes. With the aid of the Mobile X-ray Vehicle Scanning System, Customs officers have successfully intercepted 48 inbound consignments that contained controlled e-wastes. The total seizure was valued about \$4.9 million.

Under the Import and Export Ordinance, importing unmanifested cargo shall be liable to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

The maximum penalty for importing hazardous electronic waste without proper import permit under the Waste Disposal Ordinance will be a fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment.

For more information, see:

<http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/lawandorder/040722/html/040722en08010.htm>