

EPA Regions Green Their Electronics

EPA New England

EPA's New England office is taking an innovative approach to implementing its EMS by integrating it into the existing employee-based Green Team. The Green Team was established in 2002 and selects environmental objectives and works cooperatively with management and employees to develop operational programs and procedures to manage and improve the region's environmental footprint, communicate its programs, and build awareness and support for them. The EMS provides the structure to assure that the regional staff looks at the big picture, evaluating and prioritizing the full range of its environmental impacts. It also acts as the "glue" that binds together all of the environmental programs, through documentation and training, measuring of progress, and periodic review and program improvement.

In August 2003, the Green Team implemented several operational controls addressing "green" electronics, specifically:

- Aggressively implementing computer monitor power down
- Purchasing LCD monitors
- Donating computers to schools in participation with GSA Computers for Learning or employee connections

- Returning computer equipment to vendors under "buy back" programs
- Recycling computer equipment through GSA

The EPA New England office plans to join the Federal Electronics Challenge in the fall of 2004 and to implement the challenge through the EMS process. For more information contact Chris Beling at beling.christine@epa.gov.



EPA Region 8

In April 2003, the EPA Region 8 office in Denver adopted objectives and targets under its Environmental Management System concerning computers. Two significant aspects related to computers were "energy use by computers and other electronic equipment," and "waste generation." The objectives were to:

- Reduce energy use by task lighting and computers left on after office hours
- Join the Energy Star[®] Million Monitor Drive >>>

Before you leave the office, please

- ___ Turn off task lighting
- ___ Turn off your monitor
- ___ Turn off your computer
- ___ Turn off any other electronic equipment: speakers, radio, fans, etc.



A tree absorbs between 3-15 lbs of CO2 each year. That means that 100-500 trees would be needed to offset the yearly emissions of one computer left on all the time!

Source: Tufts University Climate Initiative

Thanks!