

## OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXECUTIVE

WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON WASTE PREVENTION AND RECYCLING  
1200 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW MAIL CODE 16005 WASHINGTON, DC 20460  
(202) 564-1297 WWW.OFEE.GOV TASK\_FORCE@OFEE.GOV

*PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT*

For: Immediate Release  
**Contact:** Juan D. Lopez

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Phone: 202-564-5214 E-mail: lopez.juan@ofee.gov

### **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES ELECTRONICS RECYCLING AND REUSE CHALLENGE ON AMERICA RECYCLES DAY**

As part of America Recycles Day (ARD) 2005, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice, and several other Federal partners have launched a special challenge to encourage all Federal facilities to lead by example and recycle, or donate their used computers and other electronic equipment to local schools or Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts.

Beginning on November 15, 2005, and concluding on Earth Day, April 22, 2006, selected Federal facilities will receive national recognition based on the amount of electronics recycled or donated. EPA and various Regions across the country, joined the Challenge today by recycling over 200 pallets (100,000 pounds) of e-waste. Much more is expected to be reused, donated and recycled during the five-month period that the Challenge will be in place.

The Federal government is the largest information technology (IT) equipment and service purchaser in the world, with an IT budget of over \$60 billion in FY 2005. Unfortunately when new equipment is purchased, the previous generations of equipment sit unused, tucked away in basements, closets, and warehouses of Federal facilities across the nation, with no plans for their future. Much of this equipment can be either recycled, or reused, in the communities where we live and in the workplace.

“More sustainable Federal government electronics end-of-life management practices would yield reduced toxics and solid waste, improved financial performance for individual agencies and throughout the Federal government, and help in the development of a cost-effective national recycling and reuse infrastructure for surplus electronic equipment,” said Mr. Khary Cauthen, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). “I challenge every Federal facility today to participate in the Federal Electronics Recycling and Reuse Challenge to further promote best end-of-life management practices within the Federal community.”

For more information on how Federal facilities can participate in the Challenge, visit [www.federalelectronicchallenge.net](http://www.federalelectronicchallenge.net), and click on the Electronics Recycling and Reuse Challenge box.