



Optimizing Operations and Maintenance of Electronic Equipment

FEC and NPEP Conference

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How the FEC Works

- The FEC is a management challenge issued to federal facilities.
- The challenge is designed to encourage agencies to:
 - Purchase greener electronic products
 - Manage their electronic assets in an environmentally sound manner
 - Change their current practices in order to encourage electronic stewardship

Energy Efficiency

- Purchase Energy Star Products
- Activate the Energy Star Features
- Implement network level monitor or computer monitoring and power management tools (EZ Save and EZ GPO)
 - This can be gradually implemented so users do not even notice it
- Establish and promote policy to power off PCs when agency employees leave.

Energy Efficiency vs. Remote Management

- Many organizations leave PCs on in order to remotely manage the PCs for installing new security patches or upgrading Software.....
 - Consider having users leave computers on only during the weekends so IT can remote manage the units on weekends
 - Or -
 - Consider providing notifications to users to “leave your PC on tonight for the patch/upgrade or it will be installed during the day”

- Energy savings= 1/5 of a PC’s annual energy usage

Duplex Printing and Copying

- Implement a policy across your agency to purchase duplex printers & copiers
 - Train IT folks to enable duplex systematically
 - Have double-sided copying set as default on network printers and copiers

Managed Print Services (MPS)

- EPA has a managed print service that provides for centralized management or all network printing
 - When toner is low, new toner is delivered automatically. No stockpiling of toner. Old cartridges are recycled.
 - Provides high level of availability which reduces need for local printers.

Thin Client

- Remote desktop solutions
 - Server-based, server-centric, or network computing
 - No hard disk drives
 - Centrally-managed
- Can be cost-effective for remote and/or small facilities

Extending the Lifecycle of PCs

- Extending the lifespan of a product
 - Question whether equipment needs to be replaced
 - Do you need a new printer/PC/copier? Can you upgrade it? Will other available resource fill the need?
 - Is this a need or a want? Is this just another toy?
 - Minimize local printers, maximize network printers

- Applied Economic Analysis evaluating conducted by EPA on the lifecycle of computers led to a change in policy from a 3-year to 4 –year replacement cycle.
 - For a 4 yr life cycle leasing may be more cost effective. (Over 4 yrs there is significant maintenance/support costs.)

Consider the End-of-Life Management Phase

- Reuse of equipment
 - Within your Office, your facility, the Agency
 - IT Folks talking to IT Folks about excess parts and equipment
 - Donations to Schools through Computers for Learning Program
 - Provide recipients of any donated equipment proper instructions on how to recycle and dispose of equipment in an environmentally sound manner.
- Recycle Equipment using Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition (READ) GWAC
- Recycle Toner Cartridges (from local and network printers, fax machines, and copier machines) through vendors or organizations such as the Funding Factory that provide supplies to schools.

Additional ideas

- Purchase small-form factor units.
 - Smaller units = less resources to construct
 - Smaller units = less resources to dispose
- Limit the number of PCs to 1 per person.
 - Laptops as the primary and sole computer
- Trickle down approach - reuse equipment for less sophisticated operations
- Reduce toner use - Utilize color backgrounds sparingly. (White space is good!)
- Conduct online Web conference sharing presentations on-line instead of in print
- Print presentations as 2 slides per page, doublesided and you have cut the paper use by 3/4

Need More Information?

□ FEC Website:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net>

- Educational materials
- Fact sheets
- Checklists
- Implementation guidance
- Presentations
- FEC Forms

