



●●● Update on Electronics Management Programs ●●●

Provided as a service to Partners of the Federal Electronics Challenge

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The following program descriptions are intended to provide background and update information on on-going electronics management programs relevant to Partners of the Federal Electronics Challenge. Much of this material has been extracted from program websites. URL's have been provided when possible.

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Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC)

The FEC Steering Committee met in late April in Chicago to determine the process for concluding the first, pilot year, and to ramp up for the national roll out slated for October 2004. Feedback from federal facility partners in the pilot phase has resulted in revisions to the sign-up process, the base line survey, attributes for achieving different recognition levels, and educational components of the program. The

national roll out marketing plan was also further developed, as was the plan for providing technical assistance to FEC partners.

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 Chris Kent at Kent.Christopher@epamail.epa.gov.

Maine approves America's first electronics producer responsibility bill

By an 82-60 vote, the Maine House has sent LD 1892 to Governor John Baldacci. The measure calls for a statewide recovery system for computer monitors and televisions.

- Local governments will collect the items and cannot charge for this service. The collected monitors and TVs will be delivered to consolidation centers and then onto environmentally sound recycling facilities.
- Monitor and television producers are responsible for paying the cost of operating the consolidation site and for the cost of recycling collected monitors and televisions.
- Equipment manufacturers not complying with the law and submitting recycling plans will be barred from selling products in Maine.

Summary Source:

Resource Recycling Magazine
P.O. Box 42270
Portland, OR 97242-0270
(503) 233-1305; 233-1356 (fax)
<http://www.resource-recycling.com>

For more information on the bill, please see:
<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/LD.asp?LD=1892>

Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition (READ)

The Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition (READ) Contract is being managed out of the Office of Acquisition and Resource Management. The READ contract is a government wide acquisition contract (GWAC) that would provide the Government sector with a procurement tool to properly manage electronic inventories and recycle and properly dispose of excess or obsolete electronic personal property in an environmentally safe manner.

For a background pdf., please visit:
www.epa.gov/oamhpod1/admin_placement/0300115/Meta.pdf

SVTC's Annual Report Card of Electronics Manufacturers

The Report Card is issued annually by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) and the Computer TakeBack Campaign (CTBC) to encourage consumers to leverage their buying power to foster greater corporate responsibility for protecting public health, worker safety and the environment. The Report Card analyzes the information on the web sites of computer companies, compares and measures the environmental

qualities of electronic equipment and grades the overall environmental performance of companies. <http://www.svtc.org/cleancc/pubs/2002report.htm>

Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)

EPEAT is a multi-stakeholder process to design and implement a tool for evaluating the environmental performance of electronic products. The EPEAT tool is being created by a Development Team of expert stakeholders. EPEAT has arisen from a growing interest to incentivize improvement in environmental design for electronics through marketplace mechanisms. EPEAT has been funded by U.S. EPA to explore the potential for such an assessment tool. Two subcommittees are working simultaneously. One is looking at attributes while the other is developing the overall structure for EPEAT.

At a late-April meeting in Chicago, the EPEAT planning team identified a core set of attributes that will be in the tool, and discussed three categories of attributes that still need decisions (EMS, corporate requirements, and socially responsible requirements). A draft system with attributes and criteria placed into the final scoring system is scheduled to be complete by July or August.

For more information:
<http://www.epeat.net/>

National Association of Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA)

NAHMMA is a professional organization dedicated to pollution prevention and reducing the hazardous constituents entering municipal waste streams from households, small businesses and other entities that may be exempt from local, regional or national regulations.

NAHMMA is convening their 19th Annual NAHMMA Hazardous Materials Management Conference on Household and Small Business Waste in Miami Beach, FL from September 6 through 10.

For more information on the conference, please visit:
<http://www.nahmma.org/2004conference/>

Computer Display Partnership

EPA's DfE Program (<http://www.epa.gov/dfe/>) is partnering with the display industry to evaluate the life-cycle impacts, performance, and cost of desktop computer technologies CRTs and LCDs.

The DfE Computer Display Partnership, along with the electronics industry, evaluated the life-cycle environmental impacts, performance, and cost of technologies that are used in desktop computer monitors—namely, cathode ray tubes (CRT) and liquid crystal displays (LCD). This project generated data to assist original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and suppliers in the electronics field in incorporating environmental considerations into their decision-making processes and identify areas for improvement.

For more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/dfe/projects/computer/index.htm>

Electronics: A New Opportunity for Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling (Publication)

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response published *Electronics: A New Opportunity for Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling* (PDF). This fact sheet provides information on ways that households and businesses can reduce the environmental impact of electronics use and disposal through reuse, donation, recycling, and buying greener electronic products.

The document is available in pdf at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/epr/products/efed.html>

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Electronics Recycling Partnership

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has established a unique and innovative partnership for electronics recycling with the DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office of Assets Utilization, the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and The Oak Ridge National Recycle Center (TORNRC). Via CROET, DOE funded grants to research better methods for recycling glass and plastics and established an electronics recycling pilot project. The pilot project, operated by a commercial company, was established at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This partnership allows DOE to recycle its electronics and avoid costly disposal. It also allows TORNRC to refurbish the electronics for reuse or recycle of the basic components (e.g., plastic, metal, and glass) for profit. Using this strategy, TORNRC is achieving a 99% recovery rate on all materials received. As a result of this unique teaming arrangement, over 1,190 metric tons of surplus electronic type materials have been recycled, resulting in a cost avoidance to DOE of \$1.3 million dollars to date. TORNRC and CROET received the White House "Closing the Circle Award" in August 2001 for their work in electronics recycling.

Excerpted from [Overview of U.S. Electronics Stewardship Initiatives](#). [PDF], available via:

<http://www.epa.gov/epr/pdfs/background>

Plug-In To eCycling Campaign

EPA's *Plug-In To eCycling Campaign* encourages Americans to reuse or recycle their used electronics and helps create more opportunities for them to do so. The campaign is a partnership among EPA, manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, local governments, states, and others. So far, Plug-In partners have collected and safely recycled tons and tons of old consumer electronics. EPA appreciates the contributions that Plug-In partners Best Buy, Staples, JVC, AT&T Wireless, Lexmark, Sony, Panasonic, Dell, Sharp, Recycle America Alliance, Envirocycle, and Nxtcycle are making to electronics recycling.

EPA also recognizes that we will be best able to form a national solution to the challenge of old consumer electronics if government, manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, and non-profits join forces. Thus, EPA has invited all of the above to participate in pilots for shared responsibility for electronics recycling. Through pilot projects in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, and Pacific Northwest, teams will

test numerous roles and approaches to sharing the responsibility for recycling old consumer electronics. The lessons from each of these 1-year pilots will help shape our next steps toward a national system for recycling electronics.

More information available at:

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

The GreenBlue eDesign Competition: Design of Cradle-to-Cradle Computer Products and Recycling Systems

In August 2003, the non-profit organization GreenBlue Institute, with support from EPA's Office of Solid Waste, launched the GreenBlue eDesign Competition: Design of Cradle-to-Cradle Computer Products and Recycling Systems. The competition challenges designers to rethink and innovate existing computer products into more sustainable flows of services and materials. Award winners will be at the upcoming 2004 IEEE Symposium on Electronics and the Environment (ISEE). Award recipients will also be invited to present their ideas to IEEE symposium attendees in a dedicated breakout session. Hewlett Packard and IBM are participating as major sponsors and Lexmark International and the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) are participating as contributing sponsors of the awards program.

Entrants are submitting their ideas for transforming the design of products, and the design of systems for recovering and recycling materials following product use. The competition focuses on desktop and laptop computers and displays. GreenBlue has solicited submissions from students, faculty and researchers from over 180 departments with diverse disciplines, as well as independent designers and consultants. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of nine judges from industry, academia, the consulting and the NGO communities.

The deadline for all entries to the eDesign Competition is February 28, 2004 (postmarked). The 2004 IEEE Symposium on Electronics and the Environment (ISEE) is scheduled for May 10-13 at the Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. For more information about the eDesign Competition, visit GreenBlue's website at www.greenblue.org/edesign or contact James Ewell, email: james.ewell@greenblue.org.

For current information, please visit:

<http://www.greenblue.org/edesign/>

Health Care Without Harm/Computer Take-Back Campaign Computer Procurement Guidelines

Health Care Without Harm and the Computer Take-Back Campaign's Computer Procurement Guidelines are online at <http://www.hcwh.org/goinggreen>. They are also working on a tool to help procurement officials evaluate bids based on these environmental criteria. Please e-mail Mamta Khanna at mamta@cehca.org for more information.

National Recycling Coalition's Electronics Recycling Initiative

The National Recycling Coalition's Electronics Recycling Initiative helps promote environmentally and economically responsible management of electronic products throughout their lifecycle. The Initiative, which is supported by EPA and the U.S.

Postal Service, provides several services, including online, real-time discussions on electronics recycling issues, profiles of state and local policy initiatives and voluntary programs, updates on international policy initiatives, and an online, searchable database of electronics recyclers, reuse organizations, and municipal programs. The Initiative's Website also provides access to a variety of reports and studies that provide background information on residential collection programs, recycling statistics, and management practices.

More information is available at:

<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/resources/electronics/index.htm>

Donate a Phone Program

The Donate a Phone Program, a joint initiative of the Wireless Foundation and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), collects used cell phones for redistribution to victims of domestic violence. Sponsored by Motorola, the program either sells phones (using the profits to benefit domestic violence organizations) or refurbishes them, donating them--along with free emergency airtime--to domestic violence victims. The Donate a Phone Website tells visitors where to send used cell phones, instructs visitors on how to start local collections, and lists program partners.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/donateaphone/index.cfm>

Evaluation of Cell Phone Reuse

Region 2 has contracted with INFORM to study the effectiveness of selected cell phone donation and take back programs to determine how their value is recaptured, and how collected phones are ultimately managed at end of life.

For more information, contact: graves.lorraine@epa.gov.