

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXECUTIVE

WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON WASTE PREVENTION AND RECYCLING
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PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For: Immediate Release
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THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH ELECTRONICS REUSE AND RECYCLING CAMPAIGN (ERRC) ON AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

As part of America Recycles Day (ARD) 2006, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Justice, and several other Federal partners will launch a special campaign to encourage all Federal facilities to lead by example and recycle, or donate their used computers and other electronic equipment. Nearly 70 facilities from 11 agencies participated in the first ERRC last year, and successfully reused and recycled approximately 2 million pounds of electronics. More than 100 facilities have joined the Federal Electronics Challenge, a voluntary program that commits them, among other things, to reuse and recycle their end-of-life electronics.

The Campaign will begin on November 15, 2006 and conclude on March 15, 2007. Winners from selected Federal facilities will receive national recognition based on the amount of electronics recycled or donated on Earth Day, April 22, 2007. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (Unicor) has joined ERCC by offering free transportation and recycling services on a first-come first-served basis on November 15, 2006, to recycle tons of e-wastes from Federal agencies in the Washington, DC area. Much more is expected to be reused, donated and recycled during the period that the Campaign 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 more than \$60 billion in FY 2006. When new equipment is purchased, the previous generation of equipment can be either recycled, or reused, in the communities where we live and in the workplace to avoid it sitting unused, tucked away in basements, closets, and warehouses across the nation.

“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. Ed Pinero, the Federal Environmental Executive. “I challenge every Federal facility to participate in the Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign to further promote best end-of-life management practices within the Federal community.”

For more information on how Federal facilities can participate in the Campaign, visit www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/errc/. For more information on Unicor’s free electronics recycling services for Federal agencies in the DC area, on November 15, 2006, please contact Janice Aragon at jaragon@central.unicor.gov.