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Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee. I am James Jones, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances at the United States Environmental Protection Agency. I welcome this opportunity to discuss EPA's role in the procurement and management of the Federal Government's green initiatives related to IT assets.

The Environmental Protection Agency has taken a broad and ambitious approach to greening IT procurement in the Federal Government's purchasing practices, in the private sector in the US, and -- I'm pleased to note -- internationally, as well. As the nation's environmental agency, EPA has a leadership role in a number of programs designed to reduce environmental impacts across the full life-cycle of product manufacture, purchasing, use and disposal.

These programs help us meet – and where possible, exceed – the mandates of *Federal Acquisition Regulations* pertaining to green procurement, as well as several Executive Orders focused on pollution prevention, including Executive Order 13514 on *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*, issued by the White House earlier this month. This latest Executive Order sets ambitious environmental goals for federal agencies, with strong accountability and transparency measures, and includes a requirement to *"leverage federal purchasing power"* in order to promote green products.

EPA is involved in a number of key programs that have helped us on the path to making electronics procurement more sustainable: **Energy Star**, **EPEAT** -- the *Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool* -- **FEC** -- the *Federal Electronics Challenge*, and **READ** – the *Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition* program. I'll describe the programs in just a moment, but first, I'd like to mention some of the broad principles that guide our actions here.

--The first is **sustainability**. We are looking to reduce the environmental footprint of information technology -- equipment like computers, laptops, and monitors -- over the entire life-cycle of these products. From the time materials are first extracted from the earth through mining or drilling, to the end of the useful life of a computer product, our aim is to foster stewardship and reduce overall environmental impacts.

This *multi-attribute focus* includes:

--minimizing greenhouse gas emissions,

--less reliance on toxic materials such as lead and mercury,

--increasing use of recycled materials in manufacturing and assembling the product, and increasing the recyclability of components once the product is disassembled,

--increasing material and energy efficiency

--reducing the need for material disposal

--Second, we are committed to **building the partnerships** needed to achieve genuine and lasting results. EPA works closely with electronic manufacturers, standard-setting organizations, environmental and community groups, trade associations, states, and of course, other federal agencies, to create a broad consensus around sustainability, and build the framework for rigorous achievements in a partnership setting. We have extended these partnerships to the international community, as well, and are beginning to see global-scale results of our collective efforts.

--Third, I want to mention the importance of **transparency and accountability**. We are committed to an open, well-documented process where anyone can not only view program results, but can "drill-down" to get additional details as desired, and can view the modeling parameters that underlie the calculations of program accomplishments.

--The last key principle is **effectiveness**. These programs have realized substantial environmental results -- results that are increasing rapidly over time -- with only a very modest commitment of taxpayer dollars.

Let me take a few minutes to briefly describe these programs.

ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy helping save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Since its inception in 1992, the ENERGY STAR program has overcome many market barriers and helped revolutionize the marketplace for cost-effective, energy-efficient products and services. The program is a trusted source of unbiased information that helps homeowners, businesses, and other consumers understand their opportunities for energy savings and identify the reliable, cost-effective, efficient products and services that capture these savings.

The ENERGY STAR program focuses on driving greater efficiency in the following areas:

--Helping consumers identify new energy-efficient products that operate well beyond federal minimum efficiency requirements across more than 60 product categories for the home and office.

--Constructing efficient new homes and commercial buildings—public housing, multifamily and single family housing, schools, office buildings, hospitals, hotels, and others—that exceed code and meet rigorous benchmarks for energy efficiency.

--Improving the efficiency of existing homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities through standardized measurement systems, proven energy management strategies, and new energy efficiency services that overcome lingering market barriers.

Through 2008, more than 15,000 organizations have partnered with ENERGY STAR. They have achieved and helped the country achieve significant environmental and financial benefits.

Results are already adding up. Our partners, with the help of ENERGY STAR, have reported saving enough energy in 2008 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from millions of cars — all while saving billions on their utility bills.

EPEAT – which I'll talk about next – and ENERGY STAR are closely entwined. Products must meet ENERGY STAR requirements in order to be EPEAT registered. ENERGY STAR staff participate in the development of EPEAT criteria, and the EPEAT and the ENERGY STAR programs co-market their work to federal purchasers.

EPEAT

EPEAT, helps purchasers identify and buy environmentally preferable electronics, and helps manufacturers gain market advantage by building greener electronic products. EPA supported the development of EPEAT -- providing grants, staff expertise, administrative and financial support – to respond to the needs of the marketplace. Purchasers wanted a definition of an *environmentally preferable electronic product*, and a list of products meeting that definition. Manufacturers needed a way to get credit in the marketplace for going the extra mile to reduce the impact of the products they create.

EPEAT is comprised of three main components:

1) An IEEE voluntary environmental performance standard that defines "green" for computer desktops, laptops, and monitors,
2) a registry of products meeting the criteria laid out in this standard, and a rigorous verification process, both managed by the Green Electronics Council, and
3) a calculator that determines the environmental benefits of each purchase of an EPEAT registered product.

EPEAT provides a marketplace 'reward' -- recognition as an EPEAT Bronze, Silver or Gold product -- for computers, laptops and monitors that meet EPEAT's stringent standards.

You can think of EPEAT as building on the successes of the ENERGY STAR program. In addition to meeting ENERGY STAR requirements, EPEAT registered products adhere to a total of 23 mandatory criteria adopted by the *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers* as a National Standard (*IEEE 1680*). Participants who want Silver or Gold recognition can achieve it through adherence to some of the 28 optional criteria that are also included in the standard.

The criteria in the standard target many different environmental end-points, from energy use, to reduction or elimination of toxic metals and chemicals, and even product packaging.

The EPEAT program has had a tremendous and enthusiastic response. There are almost 3,000 EPEAT-registered products from 32 manufacturers. Think of any well-known computer manufacturer -- Apple, Dell, HP, Toshiba -- and they are EPEAT participants. EPEAT registered computers are now at airport screening stations across the country, and in every Kaiser Permanente hospital room, just to name a few purchasers of EPEAT products.

In 2008, according to the Green Electronics Council, purchases of 44 million EPEAT products in the US realized the following benefits:

· Reduced use of toxic materials, including mercury, by 1,021 metric tons

· Avoided the disposal of 43 thousand metric tons of hazardous waste

· Eliminated 14,353 metric tons of solid waste

· Saved over 8.39 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough to power over 700,000 US homes for a year

· Reduced more than 1.57 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions — equivalent to taking over one million US passenger cars off the road for a year

In fact, users will save an estimated $794 million over the life of these products, chiefly from reductions in energy demand, in large part due to EPEAT products being required to meet the ENERGY STAR specifications.

It's not just the US market that realizes the environmental and economic benefits from EPEAT-registered equipment. Recently, international participants include most of Europe, Japan, and huge growing markets like China and Brazil. EPEAT is seeing environmental benefits in international markets on a similar scale to those I just described for the US, and is taking steps to more fully quantify results outside the US.

Given the enthusiastic participation thus far, EPA is actively exploring opportunities with the many EPEAT partners to expand the program beyond its current slate of computer products. Standards are being created for copiers and fax machines, and televisions, and plans are in place to develop standards for servers and cell phones. The program is also working with retailers and manufacturers to develop a plan to more actively market EPEAT products to consumers interested in procuring environmentally preferable electronics.

FEC

The Federal Government, perhaps the largest purchaser of consumer products in the US, spends an estimated $74 billion a year on information technology, according to 2009 OMB estimates.

EPA, working with the *Federal Environmental Executive*, recognized this as an enormous opportunity for the Federal Government to green its own house, and set an example on ways to purchase greener electronic products, reduce their impacts during product use, and manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

Accordingly, we invited federal facilities to participate in the *Federal Environmental Challenge*, to meet the following goals by the end of 2010:

· 95% of computer purchases are EPEAT-registered, and 100% are Energy Star enabled.

· Electronic equipment achieves an average life span of at least four years.

· 100% percent of non-reusable electronic equipment is recycled using environmentally sound management.

Sixteen federal agencies and more than 220 federal facilities are participating in the FEC, and are on track to meet most of the 2010 goals. For instance, FEC partners reported that 88% of computers and monitors in 2008 were EPEAT registered…getting close to the 95% goal. The average life of computer equipment in 2008 was 45 months, close to the 4-year (48-months) goal for 2010.

Other goals are more of a challenge. While most FEC computers and monitors are ENERGY STAR equipment, not all equipment has energy-savings features fully enabled.

Thus far, operating with a budget of only $50,000, EPA support to the FEC has helped achieve the following results in 2008:

--426,181 megawatt-hours in energy savings

--Over 100,000 metric tons in primary material savings

-- Over 31,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases avoided, and over a million metric tons of air pollution prevented

--Almost 4,000 tons of discharges to waterways prevented

And, I'm pleased to report, an estimated overall savings of about $40 million in 2008 alone, from reduced energy and resource use.

READ

The Federal Government manages the disposition of about 10,000 computers a week, not to mention other forms of electronics. In order to assist federal agencies in recycling as much of these materials as possible, and safely disposing of the remainder, EPA manages READ – the *Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition* program.

Pursuant to the 1996 Clinger-Cohen Act, OMB granted EPA the authority, in 2004, to create a *Government Wide Acquisition Contract* -- a single contract that can be used by all agencies – to handle recycling and disposal of used electronics.

The READ program developed this contract in 2005, which provides Federal agencies with a dependable method of properly managing electronic inventories, recycling electronic equipment, and disposing of excess or obsolete electronic equipment in an environmentally responsible manner.

EPA has awarded contracts to companies that can evaluate each piece of unwanted equipment and its components, and then reuse, recycle, or dispose of them under the following hierarchy:

-- Refurbish and resell them, using the proceeds to offset costs.
-- Donate them to charitable causes.
-- Recycle as much as possible.
-- Properly dispose of the remainder.

In addition to providing environmentally responsible disposition of electronic assets, READ also provides data security and economic value. READ services include:

--Developing a reportable audit trail of the equipment's final destination;
--Addressing appropriate levels of security for sensitive electronic data;
--Maximizing potential revenues from usable electronic equipment through a share-in-savings program.

The READ program received the 2006 White House *Closing the Circle Award* for environmental excellence in the Federal Government.

These program descriptions and results just scratch the surface of what is taking place in the world of greening IT in the Federal Government, but I trust they provide a good sense of the opportunities before us.

I'll be glad to respond to any questions you may have.