

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) made great strides in building a program that responds to the educational and technical assistance needs of federal facilities in implementing environmentally sound electronics stewardship.

The FEC was officially launched in October 2004, and on November 15, 2004, the Executive Office of the President and eleven federal agencies signed the Memorandum of Understanding on *Promoting Sustainable Environmental Stewardship of Federal Electronic Assets*. The MOU signatory agencies, which make up more than 80% of the over \$60 billion annual federal budget for information technology products and services, recognized the value of the FEC as a way to help them meet the MOU goals and objectives, and committed to supporting their facilities' participation in the program.

By December 31, 2005, 82 federal facilities or organizational units had signed up as FEC Partners, covering approximately 200,000 employees. These FEC Partners represented the Executive Office of the President and the following federal agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Environmental Protection Agency
- General Services Administration
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration

FEC PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Development of FEC Tools & Resources

The FEC has developed over 40 resource documents for federal agencies and facilities on the environmentally sound management of electronics. These resource documents and tools cover all three phases of the electronics life cycle at a federal agency: acquisitions & procurement, operations & maintenance, and end-of-life management. The following is a sampling of FEC resource documents developed or substantially updated in 2005:

- *Using Lessons Learned In The FEC Program To Integrate Electronics Into Your EMS*: This resource was developed to assist Partners in incorporating electronic equipment management across the lifecycle within the elements of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) Standard.
- *Overview of EPEAT*: This resource provides Partners with information on how the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) works; how to purchase EPEAT-registered products; how EPEAT meets FEC and other Federal requirements; and how to quantify the environmental benefits of purchasing EPEAT-registered products.
- *Operation and Maintenance Walkthrough*: This resource guides Partners through some simple steps that federal facilities can take to improve the operation and maintenance of your electronics in three areas: energy conservation and efficiency; printing and copying; and extending product life.
- *GSA Procedures for the Transfer, Donation, Sale and Recycling of Electronic Equipment*: This resource provides Partners engaged in managing their end-of-life electronics with an overview of relevant General Services Administration (GSA) guidelines and requirements.

FEC Educational Events

FEC Partners had the opportunity to participate in several educational and networking events in 2005, including the First Annual Federal Electronics Stewardship Conference in February 2005 and monthly FEC Partner Education Conference Calls. The Electronics Stewardship Conference brought together 80 participants from 20 agencies over a two-day period on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus in



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Bethesda, Maryland. The conference agenda covered a variety of pertinent topics in each of the three electronics life cycle phases, and participants engaged in discussions on successes, potential barriers to change, and possible solutions to implement electronics stewardship more widely across the federal government. Conference participants gave the conference an average overall rating of 4.4 out of 5.

The FEC held at least one Partner Education Conference Call each month in 2005. Guest speakers presented the latest information on a variety of topics, including "The FEC and Environmental Management Systems," "Purchasing Green Electronics," and "Selecting Your Electronics Recycler." FEC Partners had ample opportunity to ask questions and discuss technical and policy issues related to environmentally sound electronics stewardship.

FEC Technical Assistance

The FEC Program also contacted each new FEC Partner to offer assistance on FEC implementation at the Partner's facility. The FEC technical assistance network, as well as the FEC Regional EPA & GSA Champions network, is available to FEC Partners at all times to provide information and guidance on FEC best management practices and related issues.

FEC PARTNER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FEC Awards

Twenty-two FEC Partners received an FEC 2006 Award for their accomplishments in 2005. Seven Partners from two agencies received an FEC Gold Award, five Partners from four agencies received an FEC Silver Award, and ten Partners from four agencies received an FEC Bronze Award.

Award applicants were required to complete all mandatory activities listed on the FEC Gold, Silver, or Bronze Award Checklists, as applicable, as well as complete a set number of optional activities for each award level. Gold Award applicants were also required to mentor two other federal facilities.

FEC Partner Reporting

The FEC Annual Reporting Form, due each January 31 and covering the previous fiscal year, allows FEC Partners and the FEC program to track progress towards the FEC national program goals. The table below captures the results reported by FEC Partners for fiscal year 2005.

FEC Reported Results for Fiscal Year 2005¹

2008 Goals for FEC Partners	2005 FEC Partner Reporting Results
95% of computers purchased are EPEAT® Bronze-registered (EPEAT Bronze products meet 23 mandatory criteria)	0% of computers purchased were EPEAT-registered (products not available in FY2005) 20% of Partners specified EPEAT preference in contract language
100% of computers have 4-year life span	100% of computers (on average) had a 4-year lifespan
ENERGY STAR® features enabled on 100% of computer monitors	79% of monitors had ENERGY STAR features enabled
100% of non-reusable computers are recycled in environmentally sound manner	At least 70% of non-reusable computers were recycled in environmentally sound manner

¹ 30 FEC Partner Reports Received for 2005



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CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions related to this resource or need other assistance with the Federal Electronics Challenge, please contact your Regional Champion: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/technical.html>.

Visit the FEC online: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/>

E-mail the FEC: fec@epa.gov