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Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center  
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The background features a dark blue gradient with several interlocking gears in shades of blue and green. A small, stylized sun with a gradient from orange to yellow is located in the top-left corner.

# **5 Key Facts about the Federal Government and Electronics**

# Fact #1

- ✦ Approximately 10,000 federally owned computers could be deemed excess or surplus each week
- ✦ Many could be **REUSED** by schools, nonprofits, and other government agencies!



From This



To This



## Fact #2 - The federal government is the largest procurer of consumer electronics

- ✦ With 1.8 million employees, the U.S. federal sector represents a significant market share for electronics
- ✦ FY 2003 IT budget – approximately \$53 BILLION (Hardware & Services)
- ✦ Projected FY 2004 IT budget – approximately \$59 BILLION (Hardware & Services)



# Fact #3 – Electronics represent serious environmental costs and opportunities

- ✱ Electronic equipment contains hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, and beryllium.
- ✱ And valuable metals such as aluminum and copper and precious metals - gold, silver, platinum and palladium.
- ✱ Components can be reused, recycled, or reclaimed in the current marketplace.





## Fact #4 - The federal government's purchase and use of electronics are not sustainable.

- ✦ Average life cycle of federally owned computers is 3 years
- ✦ Significant quantities are ending up in storage closets, warehouses, or landfills





## Fact #5

**The Federal Electronics Challenge  
offers Environmentally Responsible  
Solutions for Managing Electronics**





# What is the Federal Electronics Challenge?

- ★ The FEC is a purchasing, use, and end-of-life management challenge issued for federal facilities or agencies to:
  1. Purchase greener electronic products
  2. Manage electronic assets in an environmentally sound manner
  3. Network with other agencies to improve current practices



# What is the Goal of the Challenge?

- ✦ Achieve cost-effective, environmentally responsible electronics management.

This goal will be achieved in part by:

- ✦ Promoting ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> features
- ✦ Increasing materials use efficiency
- ✦ Increasing recovery rate and expand the recycling infrastructure
- ✦ Utilizing the concept of supply and demand to promote environmentally preferable electronic equipment
- ✦ Reducing the volume and toxicity of electronic equipment waste



# What electronics will the FEC address?

- ✱ Monitors  
(computers and TV)
- ✱ CPUs
- ✱ Copiers
- ✱ Laptops
- ✱ Keyboards
- ✱ LCD screens
- ✱ Printers
- ✱ Cell phones
- ✱ Other



# Specifics on the Challenge

## \* Flexible

Individual facility determines its:

- Level of commitment
- Goal(s)
- Life cycle phase(s) on which to focus

## \* Recognition for all participating facilities

- Partner
- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold

## \* Mandatory and optional actions

## \* Integration of life cycle phases with higher partnership levels

- Acquisition & Procurement, Operations & Maintenance, End-of-Life



# At a glance: FEC Awards Criteria\*

## PARTNER

- ✓ Sign Pledge
- ✓ Complete Survey
- ✓ Set Goals

## BRONZE

- ✓ Sign Pledge
- ✓ Complete Survey
- ✓ Set Goals
- Select 1 of 3 LC Phases:
  - Procurement
  - Use
  - End-of-life
- ✓ Complete mandatory items in chosen LC phase
- ✓ Choose and implement 2 optional items
- ✓ Report progress

## SILVER

- ✓ Sign Pledge
- ✓ Complete Survey
- ✓ Set Goals
- ✓ Select 2 of 3 LC Phases:
  - Procurement
  - Use
  - End-of-life
- ✓ Complete mandatory items in 2 chosen LC phases
- ✓ Choose and implement 4 optional items
- ✓ Report progress

## GOLD

- ✓ Sign Pledge
- ✓ Complete Survey
- ✓ Set Goals
- ✓ Integrate 3 LC Phases:
  - Procurement
  - Use
  - End-of-life
- ✓ Complete mandatory items in all 3 LC phases
- ✓ Choose and implement 6 optional items
- ✓ Report progress
- ✓ Mentor 2 others

\* Criteria shown here are for the pilot phase.

# Examples of Requirements\* – Silver Level

	Silver
<b>Summary of Requirements</b>	1) Complete mandatory items listed under "Process Criteria". 2) Choose and integrate 2 life cycle phases. 3) Complete all mandatory items under those two LC phases in both Bronze and Silver levels. 4) Choose and implement 4 <b>optional actions</b> in at least 2 <b>intent areas</b> listed under "Optionals".
<b>Process Criteria</b>	* Complete EOL and acquisition surveys * Complete Reporting checklist
	<b>Choose and integrate 2 life cycle phases</b>
<b>Life Cycle Phase 1: Acquisition &amp; Procurement</b>	* Include EOLM in solicitation OR include O&M provisions in solicitations. (A/P) * Consider and include at least 3 identified environmental attributes in purchasing specifications. (A/P)
<b>Life Cycle Phase 2: Maintenance &amp; Operation</b>	* Make sure the Energy Star Stand By Power function is enabled in 50% of eligible equipment. (O/M) Only donate to those recipients deemed eligible by the Federal Property Reuse Program. (O/M)
<b>Life Cycle Phase 3: End-of-Life Management</b>	* Establish and maintain a system for property accountability of electronic equipment from desktop to disposition. (EOL) * Provide recipients of any donated equipment proper instructions on how to recycle and dispose of equipment in an environmentally sound manner. (EOL)
<b>Other Mandatory Actions</b>	Choose and implement 4 actions in at least 2 intent areas listed under "Optional Actions"

## Life Cycle Phase: Procurement

\*Include EOLM or O&M provisions in solicitations.

\*Include at least three environmental attributes in purchase.

## Life Cycle Phase: End-of-Life Management

- \* Establish and maintain a system for property accountability of electronic equipment from desktop to disposition.
- \* Provide recipients of any donated equipment proper instructions on how to recycle and dispose of equipment in an environmentally sound manner.

•These requirements are for pilot phase and may be revised for the national roll-out.



# FEC Partners Get....

- ✦ Educational Training Opportunities
  - Monthly calls
- ✦ Assistance from experts to:
  - **Buy** greener electronics
  - **Use** electronics to achieve fiscal and environmental savings
  - **Manage** electronics in an environmentally responsible manner
- ✦ Networking Opportunities
- ✦ Access to Cost Effective Tools & Strategies
  - Resource efficiency
  - Energy Savings
  - Equipment Maintenance
- ✦ Strategies to ensure data security & reduce liability
- ✦ National Recognition for Leadership





# Timeline

- ✿ Pilot Phase: May 2003 - June 2004
  - ✿ Develop overall framework of Challenge and associated tools
  - ✿ Pilot the Challenge with a group of agencies in EPA regions 5, 9, 10
  - ✿ Refine Challenge framework & tools based on lessons from pilot
  - ✿ First awards in Fall, 2004
- ✿ National Roll-out: October 2004
  - ✿ Market FEC to a broader federal audience

Look for more details in Summer, 2004



# Don't Wait – You can Benefit Now!

- ☀ Check out FEC website:

- [www.federalelectronicschallenge.net](http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net)

- Topical presentations
  - Tools and resources organized into:
    - Procurement
    - Use
    - End-of-life management

- ☀ Participate in monthly education calls

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month
  - Past topics: green purchasing, liability, toxics, goal-setting
  - Upcoming topics: environmentally sound recycling, eco-labels,

- ☀ Look for national roll out of FEC this Fall. In the meantime, start to engage others who deal with purchase, use and end-of-life management of electronics!



# What will you need to do?

- ✦ Sign the pledge:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/register.htm>

- ✦ Complete the Survey:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/baseline.htm>

- ✦ Identify your goals:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/goals.htm>

- ✦ Implement!

**FEC Steering Committee is here to help you.**



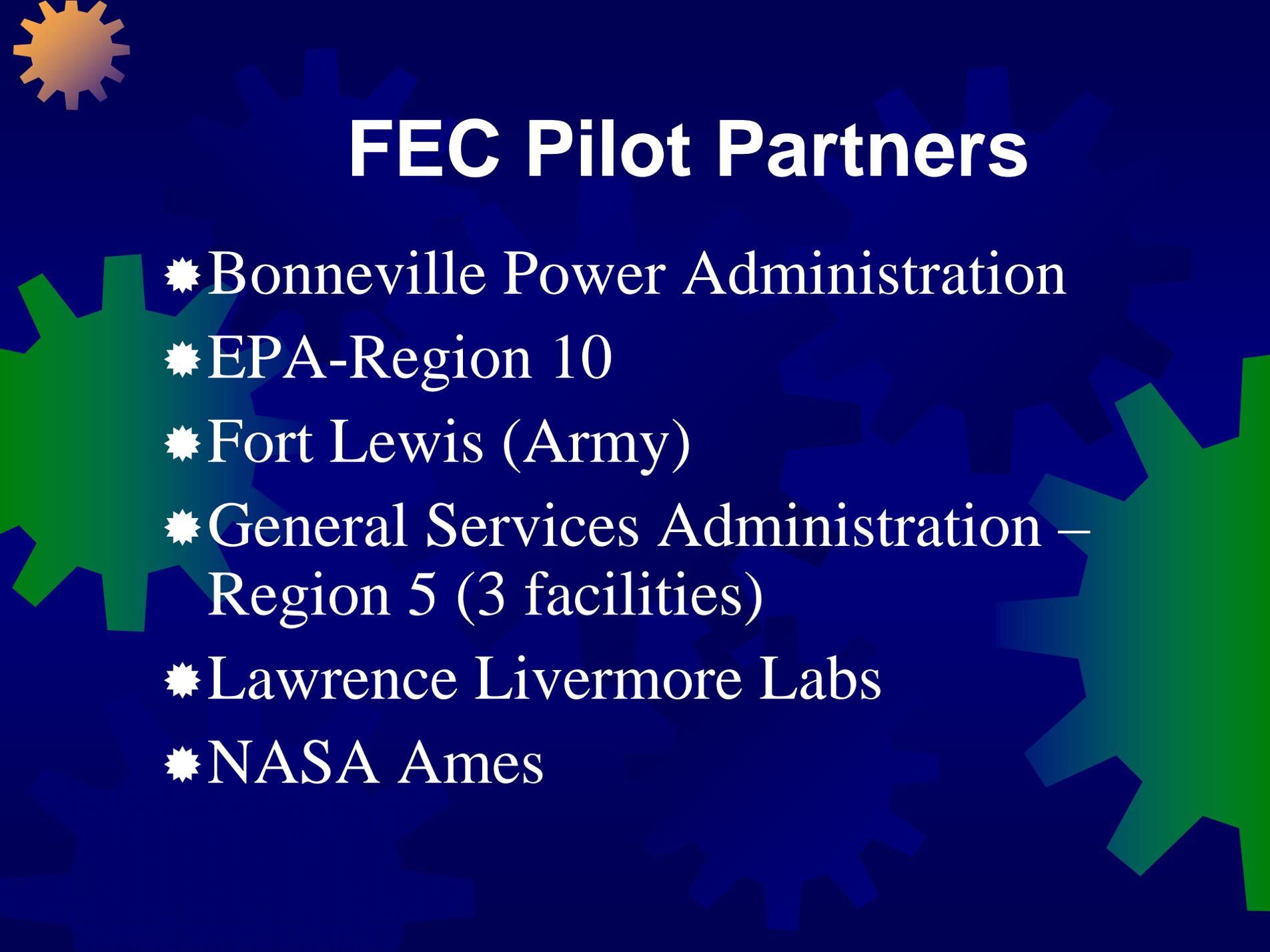


# Sample of tools on Website

- ✱ Key Environmental Attributes to Consider for Copiers, Printers and PCs
- ✱ Product Environmental Information Sheet
- ✱ Instructions on how to track energy use
- ✱ Guidance on “How to Select a Recycler”
- ✱ Examples of desktop-to-disposition tracking mechanisms
- ✱ Checklist for conducting an on-site audit of recyclers

...and many other tools are available at:

<http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net>



# FEC Pilot Partners

- ✱ Bonneville Power Administration
- ✱ EPA-Region 10
- ✱ Fort Lewis (Army)
- ✱ General Services Administration –  
Region 5 (3 facilities)
- ✱ Lawrence Livermore Labs
- ✱ NASA Ames



# Contacts

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[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)

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