



# SEC

STATE ELECTRONICS CHALLENGE

**Turn Your Computer Green –  
Become a State Electronics Challenge Partner**

[www.StateElectronicsChallenge.net](http://www.StateElectronicsChallenge.net)

## **What Is the Challenge?**

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools, colleges, universities, and other public entities to:

- Purchase greener electronic products.
- Reduce the impacts of electronic products during use.
- Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

Government agencies and organizations participate as "Partners" in the program. The SEC provides Partners with resources and technical assistance for improving electronics management practices, and offers annual recognition to Partners that have achieved specific goals.

To date, more than thirty government entities—representing more than 43,000 employees—have signed on as SEC Partners, making a commitment to improve the environmental footprint of their computer assets. For the current list of Partners, visit [http://stateelectronicschallenge.net/current\\_partners.html](http://stateelectronicschallenge.net/current_partners.html)

## **Why Should Government Get Involved?**

Collectively, state and local governments purchase more than \$35 billion worth of technology equipment annually, and has the opportunity to provide leadership in the environmentally sound and cost-effective management of electronic assets. The SEC will help state, local, and regional governments, schools and agencies to become leaders and face the new challenges posed by this waste stream. And, it's a great opportunity to get teachers and students involved in environmental action.

## **Why Electronics?**

Used and obsolete electronics, such as computers, are part of an increasing and complex waste stream that poses challenging environmental management problems.

Electronic products contain a variety of hazardous constituents. Cathode ray tubes, circuit boards, batteries, and other electronic components often contain toxic materials such as lead and cadmium. This growing and changing waste stream presents new

challenges and responsibilities in designing and managing products to reduce the environmental impacts associated with each phase of the electronics life cycle — procurement, operation and maintenance, and end-of-life management.

**Why Become an SEC Partner?** By becoming a Partner, you will be demonstrating environmental leadership in your state, region, and the nation. Your actions as a Partner will have significant environmental impact. For example, for every 1,000 “green” computers you purchase and recycle, you

- Decrease energy usage by 1.3 million kWh, equivalent to the electricity needed to power 105 households annually;
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions by 169 MTCE, the equivalent of removing 113 passenger cars from the road per year;
- Avoid 35.6 metric tons of municipal solid waste, or the amount of waste generated by 18 households annually;
- Decrease hazardous waste entering the waste stream by 17 metric tons; and
- Avoid the use of 164 pounds of toxic materials, including lead and mercury.<sup>1</sup>

**Annual Recognition.** Partners have the opportunity to obtain annual recognition for their accomplishments.

**Partner-only Resources.** The SEC will help you to implement the life cycle practices that you choose.

- ➔ **Implementation Tools.** The SEC provides Partners with resources to implement program goals for procurement, energy conservation, equipment reuse and donations, and recycling.
- ➔ **Environmental Impact Tools.** The SEC provides you with the tools to calculate the environmental benefits of your program.
- ➔ **Technical Assistance.** The SEC provides one-on-one technical assistance to Partners on such issues as program requirements, available resources, mentor organizations, and completion of data collection forms.
- ➔ **Teleconferences.** Partner-only Teleconferences provide focused presentations on selected topics.

And, it's easy and free to become a partner. On-line registration is simple – it won't take more than 2 or 3 minutes for you to sign-up.

Visit the Web site at [www.StateElectronicsChallenge.net](http://www.StateElectronicsChallenge.net) to sign-up, or for more information contact [info@stateelectronicschallenge.net](mailto:info@stateelectronicschallenge.net).

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the purchase of 1,000 EPEAT<sup>®</sup> Silver registered CPUs with LCD monitors and enabling their power management features, and the recycling of 1,000 CPUs with CRT monitors; estimates were calculated using the U.S. EPA-funded Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (v2, dated 3-2-09).  
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