



Turn Your Computer Green – Become a State Electronics Challenge Partner www.StateElectronicsChallenge.net

What Is the Challenge?

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) – Northeast Pilot is a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools, colleges, universities, and other public entities in the Northeast, 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.

The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont all participated in the development of the SEC – Northeast Pilot.

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 1.2 million kWh, equivalent to the electricity needed to power 101 households annually;
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions by 90 MTCE, the equivalent of removing 71 passenger cars from the road per year;
- Avoid 34.7 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 340 pounds of toxic materials, including lead and mercury.¹

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 – Northeast Pilot provides one-on-one technical assistance to Partners on such issues as program requirements, available resources, mentor organizations, and completion of data collection forms.

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 to sign-up, or for more information contact info@stateelectronicschallenge.net.

This pilot has been made possible by a grant to the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NERC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

** Even if you are not currently eligible to be a Partner, these resources are available to everyone – just go to the Web site and they’re there for the taking!

¹ Based on the purchase of 1,000 EPEAT™ Silver registered CPUs with LCD monitors, and the recycling of 1,000 CPUs with CRT monitors; estimates were calculated using the U.S. EPA-funded Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (version 1.1, dated 4-18-07).