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GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region Recognized for Green Power Purchasing Efforts

NEW YORK CITY - The U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Northeast and Caribbean Region has recently again been named one of the top 25 green power purchasers by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region continues to be a front-runner in the federal government's green power initiatives and has received numerous awards for its achievements.

"We're very proud of this recognition," remarked Regional Administrator Eileen Long-Chelales. "Here in the Northeast & Caribbean Region we are setting a national example and doing our part to support President Bush's energy initiatives. By running our buildings as efficiently as possible, we not only reduce federal energy use and leave more energy available to meet local communities' needs, but we also save taxpayers money – an accomplishment that pleases everyone." Long Chelales noted that, "By purchasing green power from these renewable resources, we are helping to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign energy."

Among the Region's recent noteworthy accomplishments:

- Within GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region energy use at federal facilities in FY2005 was reduced by approximately 33.5% compared to the amount of energy used in FY1985 - and this is despite the tremendous increase in the use of office automation equipment that everyone has experienced during the same period.
- In FY2006 the region awarded a contract to provide 100% wind power to the nation's most popular tourist attractions on the east coast, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. In this contract GSA's New Jersey Service Center will also buy over 1 million kWh of renewable energy for its 22 facilities, including the Peter Rodino Federal Building in Newark, New Jersey.
- In FY2005 the region was presented with GSA's Achievement Award for Real Property Innovation for "Offsetting Environmental Hazardous Emissions from Energy 2004"- the U.S Government's premier national energy conference. In that same fiscal year the region was presented with the Department of Energy's 2005 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for exceptional accomplishments in the efficient use of green power in the Federal Sector.
- Four of the region's federal facilities have received Energy Star Label designations from both the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Two federal facilities, located in Binghamton and Utica, NY, meet 100% of their energy needs through wind power.

Through its other purchasing and contracting programs GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region is making it easier for agencies to purchase recycled and other environmentally friendly products - proving that saving the planet's resources can also save tax dollars. As an example, the region annually procures over 48 million lbs of paper of recycled copy paper.

The region is using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System to qualify and quantify sustainable and energy efficient efforts in facilities projects, with a goal that all new projects be LEED certified. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

GSA is a centralized federal procurement; property management, and policy agency, created by Congress to improve government efficiency and help federal agencies better serve the public. On behalf of federal agencies, GSA acquires office space, equipment, telecommunications, information technology, supplies and services. It also plays a key role in developing and implementing government wide policies. GSA's 13,000 associates provide services and solutions for office operations for more than one million federal workers located in more than 8,000 government-owned and leased buildings in 2,000 U.S. communities. GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region and its 800 associates, deliver agency services to federal customers in New York, Northern New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additional information regarding GSA programs and policies can be found at the agency's website: www.gsa.gov.