

# Closing the Circle News

News on federal acquisition, recycling, and waste prevention from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

## Inside

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Closing the Circle Awards

3

"Green" Light on National Recycling Summit

3

NRC/FEE Confluence Program

4-5

"Greening" the Overnight Mail

5

Planet GSA is Here!

7

Stepping Into The Winner's Circle

8

## America Recycles Day 1998 - Get on Board!

The National Executive Committee for America Recycles Day has started working toward the second annual recycling awareness day to be held on Sunday, November 15, 1998! This year's key message is: "If you're not buying recycled, you're not really recycling." The theme is based on the goal of America Recycles Day, which is to increase recycling and the purchase of recycled content products.

"We want to make consumers aware of the importance of "buying recycled" and to emphasize the message that you're not really recycling unless you buy recycled products," said national co-chair Fran McPoland, the Federal Environmental Executive. "For America Recycles Day 1998, we will again challenge all Americans to make a pledge to increase their purchases of recycled-content products. One way to do that is to hold a buy recycled event in every participating community."

More than 5,000 local recycling and Buy Recycled showcase events in 43 states and two US

Territories are expected to be organized across the country. America Recycles Day founding organizers are: The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, Environmental Defense Fund, United States Conference of Mayors, Solid Waste Association of North America, National Recycling Coalition and the Recycling Coalition of Texas. The 1998 Official sponsors include: Browning Ferris Industries (BFI), The Home Depot, 100% Recycled Paperboard Alliance, Remanufactured Industries Council International, Steel Recycling Institute, Union Camp Corporation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Postal Service. Last year, millions of people across the country participated in the first national America Recycles Day. "We reached millions of Americans with a recycle and buy recycled message," said national co-chair Will Ferretti, Executive Director of the National Recycling Coalition. "Our partnership captured

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## Federal Sector is Already on Board!

A Group of federal agencies headed by National Federal Steering Committee Co-chairs George Mohr (U.S. Social Security Administration) and Jim Edward (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) have started planning for the federal government participation in America Recycles Day 1998. The Department of Defense General Services Administration, Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, and Department of Veterans Affairs are among the many agencies who are meeting on a monthly basis to organize recycling and buy recycled events in federal facilities across the country.

For the second year, the Washington DC area will host a Federal Rally that will include display booths, various speakers and musical entertainment. The event is planned for November 9, 1998 in the Atrium Hall of the new Ronald Reagan Building. The Department of Education will host a Procurement Training on Nov 10, 1998 to help raise awareness throughout the federal workforce on the importance of purchasing recycled content products. A federal planning guide is available to help federal facilities prepare for America Recycles Day 1998.

If you are interested in finding more about what you can do in celebrating America Recycles Day, please contact George Mohr at (410) 965-4387, E-mail: [george.mohr@ssa.gov](mailto:george.mohr@ssa.gov), or Jim Edward at (202) 564-2462, E-mail: [edward.james@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:edward.james@epamail.epa.gov).



GET ON BOARD *from page one*

the public's attention through national and local media, and we reinforced the message at an estimated 3,000 local events sponsored by governments, workplaces, schools, and environmental groups across the nation."

In 1997, the event was a first time success and got measurable results for recycling programs across the United States. Numerous public and private industry partnerships formed across the country as a result of nation-wide participation in America Recycles Day. More than 700,000 individuals made a personal pledge to start or enhance their recycling efforts and to buy recycled products as part of the "America Green Dream House" contest. The house -- built primarily from recycled products -- was won by Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Portillo of Texas.

If you or your community would like to learn how to get on board with America Recycles Day 1998, please contact your State Organizer by visiting the web site at: [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) or call Tuerff-Davis EnviroMedid at (512) 476-4ENV. If you are part of the federal government, please see the box on page 1 for more information.

## Bring ARD to PBS Children Programs

**O** approach to promote America Recycles Day is to request local affiliates of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to broadcast shows and or segments incorporating recycling themes. A growing number of children's programs have included waste prevention and recycling in their themes and educational pieces. One may use this as a school or children's organization project (scouts, etc) showing support for America Recycles Day by sending a group of requests for recycling theme programming.

Scheduling the telecast the week prior to America Recycles Day can add emphasis to the America Recycles Day activities and boost overall enthusiasm.

Dear (local contact name)

All across America, on November 15, 1998, people will be taking part in recycling activities as part of the Second Annual America Recycles Day. This effort is being organized by a public-private partnership with Vice President Al Gore as honorary chairman. Your support would be appreciated in providing recycling themes in your children's programming during the week of November 8, 1998 with November 12th or 13th as the most desirable as it immediately precedes the November 15th date. You should consider broadcasting the following shows that week.

Scholastic's		The Magic School Bus Family Holiday Special
Barney and Friends	#511	(incorporates recycling/reuse themes)
Groundling Marsh	#7	Life Before Stacks
	#9	Pot of Plenty
	3 1	Mine All Mine
Storytime	#111	(recycling theme)
	#313	(recycling references)
Hill Nye the Science Guy	#13	Garbage
Arthur	#125	Arthur Cleans Up (Scheduled to air October 9, 1998)

Your support of this event underscores your dedication and commitment to our future generations and that each of us can contribute to the conservation of our precious natural resources and reduce waste.

Sincerely,

## National Prize for America Recycles Day

**A**s an incentive for Americans to increase buying recycled, a national contest is being organized with a special prize..an "American Green Dream House

The House, a beautiful 3 bedroom home built primarily with recycled-content materials, is valued at more than \$200,000.

The winner will be chosen on December 15 from a random drawing of entries submitted by individuals who voluntarily pledge to recycle and buy recycled.

Contest Entry Forms can be obtained by attending an America Recycles Day event in your area or by visiting the America Recycles Day web site at:

<http://www.americarecyclesday.org>



# The White House Closing the Circle Awards: 1999

We cordially invite you once again to participate in the 1999 White House Closing the Circle Awards. This program was developed to recognize federal employees and their facilities for efforts which resulted in significant contributions to, or have made a significant impact on, the environment in specific categories under the Executive Order. Now in our fifth year, we continue to seek great affirmative procurement, waste reduction and recycling success stories that can set the example for other federal facilities to follow.

The categories are:

- Waste Prevention\*
- Environmental Preferability\*
- Recycling\*
- Model Facility Demonstrations\*
- Affirmative Procurement
- Sowing the Seeds for Change

Each category will recognize efforts made by either an individual federal employee ("individual award") or teams/groups of federal and/or contract employees at federal facilities ("team/project award"). Each category will also recognize "Military" and "Civilian" nominations with separate awards. Individuals or teams/groups submitting nominations in any categories marked with asterisks should

indicate whether the nomination applies to: material(s) which would normally be a solid non-hazardous waste under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); or a hazardous waste, toxic substance, or radioactive waste under Subtitle C of RCRA, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and/or the Atomic Energy Act (AEA).

Individual awards will also be presented under Executive Order 12856, Federal Compliance With Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements.

The box on page 6 describes the award categories, and while not all inclusive, it will help you to understand the criteria used to judge and evaluate the nominations for awards.

This time we have also improved the record keeping of the hundreds of nominations we receive every year by developing a mandatory electronic registration form that should be accessed through our web site: [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov) and clicking on the awards logo. If you do not have Internet access, please request a file copy of the registration form by calling (202) 260-9291 or E-mailing a message to [lopez.juan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:lopez.juan@epamail.epa.gov).

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## "Green" Light on National Recycling Challenge

The "Recycling: Looking Toward the Next Century" workshop held May 19-21 in the White House Conference Center was a successful step in preparation for the National Recycling Challenge tentatively scheduled for November 1998. This effort convened leaders from industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and representatives from local, state, and federal government to recycling. hurdles and solutions to the future of recycling, workshop generated recommendations in the areas of leadership, financial incentives, strengthening recycling market development, and public information to reinvigorate recycling and buying recycled products across the United States.

Several groups have been organized in preparation for the Fall event to address the recommendations that resulted from the workshop. The Federal Government National Recycling Group has the responsibility for addressing the

recommendations under the purview of the federal government. It includes representatives from more than seventeen Federal agencies including the Office of the Vice President and the Council on Environmental Quality.

The Message Group was formed to develop a "new" message conveying the intent to revitalize our efforts in recycling. It consists of federal and city representatives, and industry representatives involved in recycling-related issues. There are similar sector groups consisting of industry, NGOs, and cities working toward actions in other areas of responsibility.

At the National Recycling Challenge, participants will review success stories and announce their recycling commitments to benefit both our economy and our future generations. For more information on the workshop results, please review the final report available on the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive Web page at [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov).

# 1998 NRC/FEE Confluence Program

## Federal Sessions

### ARE YOU A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE?

Come network with your federal colleagues at the Federal government's annual recycling meeting! The Federal Environmental Executive has again teamed with the National Recycling Coalition to sponsor the 1998 NRC-FEE Confluence Program. Nearly a dozen agencies helped us to put together an informative series of sessions on recycling, affirmative procurement, market development, and America Recycles Day. Agency representatives from across the federal government will be participating in this year's Confluence as speakers, moderators, and attendees. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday, September 13

4:30 -5:30 pm

*FEE Opening Session/Keynote*

Monday, September 14

900 -1030 am

Track 4: Market Development and Buy Recycled  
*Affirmative Procurement: How Do I Get the Job Done?*  
Intermediate

Want to build a strong buy-recycled program? Wondering what tools you can use? Want to do more than buy recycled paper? Learn about the practical aspects of setting up a buy-recycled program from agencies that have done it successfully, including Closing the Circle Award winners.

Tom Daily, V.S. GSA, Moderator  
Todd Smiley, EPA Region 4, "EPA Region 4's 'Eco-Purchasing Program'"  
Gina Carpenter, Dobbins ARB, "Affirmative Procurement Implementation on Dobbins ARB"  
Peter Dolder\* and Jim McQuaide, USPS, "Innovative Techniques for Purchasing Recycled Content Products"  
Letty Huezo, Navy Station San Diego\*, "Affirmative Procurement at Naval Station San Diego"

10:45 am -1245 pm

Track 2: Optimizing Materials Handling and Finding Markets  
*Recycling 101 —Options for Setting Up a Basic Program*  
Basic

Want practical advice on setting up recycling programs? Hear from three award-winning programs that will share with you how they accomplished their successes and offer different approaches to office recycling. Learn how you can use Cooperative Administrative Support Units to share recycling resources with other government agencies. This session also features the VA's recycling training video.

Fred Martinez, Dept. Of Veterans Affairs, Moderator  
Department of Veterans Affairs Recycling Training Video  
William G. Reger, Sandy Jones, GSA, "Three Approaches to Office Recycling Programs"  
Michael F. Redfern, IJ.S. Air Force, "Cooperative Administrative Support Unit (CASU): An Alternative Program for Your Recycling Needs"

*Recycling 201 —Improving the Basic Program*  
Intermediate

Recycling truly is getting hotter! Speakers from award-winning recycling programs will discuss how they achieved high recycling rates. Come learn about innovative approaches to managing recycling programs in National Parks and military installations.

Bill McGovern, Treasury Dept., Moderator  
Paul Brewer, Navy Whidbey, "Navy Whidbey Recycling Program"  
Linda Larson, Rebecca Mitchell, Robins AFB, "A Growing Recycling Program"  
Judith Wong, U.S. EPA Region 8, Michael Schene, National Park Service, "How Do I Make It Work: Building Recycling Programs in the National Parks"  
Pat Rippey, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, "Analyses of Recent ECAS Data Show Common Deficiencies, Obstacles, and Trends in Army Recycling Programs"  
Michael Bergum, Department of Veterans Affairs, "Tomah VA Medical Center Recycling Survival Plan"

4:30 - 6:00 pm

*To Be Announced*

Tuesday, September 15

8:30 -10:00 am

Track 4: Market Development and Buy Recycled  
*Market Development: Case Studies of Using Federal Purchasing to Create Markets*  
Advanced

With a little innovation, federal agencies have been able to create markets for recycled content products and better manage their waste streams. Agencies will present examples of creating markets for used oil, mixed paper, wooden pallets, and other recovered materials. Learn how you too can encourage manufacturers' use of recovered materials.

Dana Arnold, OFEE, Moderator  
Kim Holland, Defense Supply Center Richmond, "Closed-Loop Re-Refined Oil Program"  
Randy Romine, Defense Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, "Using Public-Private Partnerships to Develop Recycled Content Packaging"  
J.J. Hoyt, COMNAVBASE, Norfolk, VA, "Creating Markets for Plastics"  
Dr. Bob Armstrong, AARC, "Leveraging Public and Private Funds to Commercialize Biobased Products"



1:30 -3:30 pm

Track 6: Beyond Traditional Recycling  
*Looking Beyond Conventional Recyclables*  
Intermediate

Two panels will look at recycling beyond paper, bottles, and cans. One panel will discuss recycling of fluorescent lamps and CFCs and the use of materials exchanges. The second panel will discuss what works for agency recycling of electronics and what more needs to be done. It will include the progress of the Electronics Recycling Workgroup convened by the Federal Environmental Executive.

Michael Fanning, U.S. Postal Service, Moderator  
Panel 1:

Lorraine Perry, USPS, "Recycling Used Fluorescent Lamps"  
Arnie Edelman\*, U.S. DOE, "Achieving DOE Complex-Wide Materials Exchange Through Development of the Materials Exchange Web Site"  
John R. Whalen, DOE Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, "Oak Ridge Y-12 Refrigerant Management Program"

Panel 2:

William Hayden\*, USPS, "Progress of the Electronics Recycling Workgroup"  
Glenn Kuntz and James Wickemeyer, Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, Electronic Scrap Dismantling and Recycling in the Defense Department"

5:00 -6:30 pm **FEE Reception**

Ever wonder how to sell a recycled product to the federal government? Ever wonder who offers EPA-designated recycled products? How does federal acquisition reform affect purchasing of recycled products? Join the Federal Environmental Executive in a networking reception sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service for federal employees, recycled product vendors, and industry representatives to meet and discuss recycled product purchasing issues and trends within the federal government

Wednesday, September 16

8:00 -10:00 am

Track 5: Public Education and Outreach  
America Recycles Day

On November 15, 1997, the first America Recycles Day became a reality. Thousands of events, designed to educate the American public about the benefits of recycling and buying products made from recycled content, took place nationwide. The Federal government did its part with a wide variety of events scheduled across the country. This session features presentations on last year's success stories and distribution of the 1998 Special Event Planning Guide to help agencies organize their own America Recycles Day celebration this November. Come listen, learn, exchange ideas, and remember "Keep Recycling Working -Buy Recycled."

Catherine Johnson, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Moderator  
Kevin Tuerff, Tuerff-Davis Enviromedia, "1998 America Recycles Day"  
George Mohr, SSA, "1997 Federal ARD Rally"  
Laura Orem, SSA, "SSA's ARD Celebration"  
Keith Trychta, Argonne National Laboratory-East, "Argonne's 1997 ARD Activities"  
Hill Meinering, Wright-Patterson AFB\*, "Kans for Kids"

10:00 - 11:00 AM

*ARD Rally*

**Note: Asterisk indicates 1998 Closing the Circle individual or facility award winner.**

## "Greening" Overnight Delivery Service

**D**id you know that when you choose an overnight delivery service, you are making an environmental statement? Neither did we, but recently the Alliance for Environmental Innovation, a project of the Environmental Defense Fund, prepared a report on the packaging practices of the overnight shipping industry. The report demonstrated how packaging changes can benefit the environment while at the same time have significant cost savings. Examples from the report include:

- The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is using a paperboard envelope that is 100% recycled with a minimum of 80% postconsumer fiber that has no impediments to recycling;
- Airborne Express has plastic corrugated shipping box containing almost double the current average for recycled content, at 82% postconsumer fiber.;

• The United Parcel Service is testing a two-way reusable shipping envelope and;

• The USPS is showing leadership by having a relatively high postconsumer recycled content in plastic envelopes.

The Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) has provided copies of the report to the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and urged them to strongly consider environmental considerations in the selection process for overnight services within the guidelines and framework of the Administration's streamlining and procurement reform goals. The FEE requested that in all future competitions for overnight services that environmental considerations be a selection factor along with other factors such as price and past performance.

The FEE recommended specific pilot programs that each agency could test and will continue to pursue the "greening" of overnight services because of the significant environmental benefits for the federal government, industry, and the American taxpayer.

## AWARDS *from page three*

Please remember these five important points when submitting your nomination package:

1. You must first fill out the electronic registration form.
2. Include a total of no more than two 8 1/2 x 11 sheets of paper (4 sides) total, duplex-printed on recycled paper containing at least 30 percent post-consumer material, in addition to a hard copy of the required electronic registration form as the cover page.
3. Describe what positive changes were made by the individual or facility program and provide supporting documentation along with quantitative data (for example, reductions in waste generation). Additional documentation in excess of the two page limit, that you believe may support your nomination, may be included but will not necessarily be considered by the judges.
4. Determine if your agency requires that nominations be submitted through a headquarters' point of contact. Facilities within the Department of Defense (DOD), the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) should not submit nominations directly to the address below. DOD nominations will be submitted through channels to the Deputy Under Secretary

of Defense for Environmental Security. DOT and USPS Agencies/Departments will submit nominations through the appropriate point of contact. Check with your Agency/Department headquarters to determine if there are additional requirements and deadlines for submitting your nomination.

5. Mail five complete hard copies of your nomination package postmarked by January 18, 1999 to:

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive  
White House Closing the Circle Awards  
Mail Code 1600  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Finally, it is not our intent to limit your opportunity for award recognition by imposing strict parameters that may hinder program innovation. The objective of the White House Closing the Circle Award Program is to recognize all applicable waste reduction, recycling and affirmative procurement innovations and successes. Be creative and let your imagination run wild! If you have any questions call the OFEE at (202) 260-1297. Good Luck!

## Closing the Circle Award Categories

### Waste Prevention

This category recognizes reductions in the generation of wastes from a Federal facility through any change in the design, manufacturing, or use of materials or products; and/or the amount of toxicity in waste materials prior to recycling, treatment or disposal.

### Recycling

This category recognizes outstanding activities, including outreach, collection, separation and processing by which products or other materials are recovered from the waste stream for use in the manufacture of new products (other than fuel for producing heat or power by combustion) at a Federal site, facility, or operation.

### Affirmative Procurement

This category recognizes the most effective and innovative programs implemented for the purchase and use of products containing recovered materials at a Federal site, facility, or operation. This award focuses on, but is not limited to, those products designated in the Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG).

### Environmental Preferability

This category recognizes the best examples of acquiring, using, or validating products or services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose; an

outstanding improvement to a process that resulted in significant monetary savings and benefit to the environment; product testing that led to the approval and use of environmentally preferable or sound products and services.

### Model Facility

This award recognizes achievements by an individual or federal facility for outstanding contribution to waste prevention, recycling and affirmative procurement through its leadership, investment in resources and change in culture. Notwithstanding the name "Model Facility," an individual who virtually singlehandedly designed and executed the program submitted can be nominated in this category.

### Sowing the Seeds for Change

This category should be considered when an individual or facility leads an activity, or conducts an infrastructure or policy change that advances the objectives of the E.O., but does not necessarily have a direct impact on the waste being reduced, recycling effort developed or affirmative procurement practice implemented. One example in this category is the "Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership" (see article on page 8). Through this Partnership, several federal facilities in the State of Texas have indirectly reduced waste generation and promoted pollution prevention.

### Executive Order 12856

This award recognizes individuals that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in implementing the pollution prevention provisions of Executive Order 12856. The Federal Environmental Executive is pleased to continue incorporating this Environmental Challenge Award into the 1999 Closing the Circle Award Program.

# Planet GSA is here!

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the agency responsible for providing space for 1 million Federal employees, has a new environmental concept called Planet GSA, which calls attention to four key areas in which the agency already plays a significant role: "Buying Green," "Building Green," "Driving Green," and Saving Green."

Administrator David Barram has been promoting "Planet GSA" to support GSA's programs that have a positive influence on climate change and the environment. Each GSA Regional Office has an Executive who will enlist the support of the agency's 14,200 employees in carrying out the objectives. Through Planet GSA, Barram also aims to provide leadership and to help involve the entire Federal community in protecting the environment. The Program calls attention to all of GSA's environmental initiatives but specifically has four main areas in which the agency has ongoing activities that address the main environmental concerns and that help comply with laws, Executive Orders and regulations.

**Buying Green:** GSA promotes the purchase and use of environmentally oriented products and services, In FY 97, the agency sold over \$400 million of the over 3,000 items found in their Environmental Products Guide. Plans call for developing a complete program to help guide employees on buying

## New Network for Environmental Products Purchasing

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), a non-profit, non-partisan organization created by the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments, has established EPPNET, the Environmentally Preferable Products Procurement Listserv to link federal, state, local and private officials. EPPNET is intended to provide quick access to information such as availability of product specifications, lists of vendors for particular products, pricing information, strategies to achieve recycled product procurement goals, and federal procurement policies. Product vendors are currently not granted access to the network, although this may be reconsidered later.

Those interested in joining EPPNET, can send the following E-mail message (in either the subject line or the body of the text) to [lyris@aladdin.webrover.com](mailto:lyris@aladdin.webrover.com):

SUBSCRIBE EPPNET FIRST NAME LAST NAME

or

JOIN EPPNET FIRST NAME LAST NAME

Membership to EPPNET will first be approved by the Northeast Recycling Council. To expedite this process, applicants should E-mail a short description of their job to the listserv administrator, Ellen Pratt, at [epratt@sover.net](mailto:epratt@sover.net). For more information, contact the Northeast Recycling Council at (802)254-3636, send E-mail to: [epratt@sover.net](mailto:epratt@sover.net), or see NERC's web site at [www.nerc.org](http://www.nerc.org).

## Update to EPAs Paper RMAN

EPA has issued a second Paper Products Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN II), which revises the content levels for printing and writing paper to 30% postconsumer fiber, effective the end of this year. This change retains consistency between EPA's recommendations and the Executive Order requirements. You can find the Paper RMAN II by visiting the EPA Office of Solid Waste (OSW) web site at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure.htm>.

On June 8, EPA also published a short update to the original RMAN. This update provides a reference to GSA's current contract for polyester carpet containing recovered materials. It also provides a recommendation for plastic batt building insulation, a product that recently became available containing recovered materials. The RMAN I Update is available at the EPA Office of Solid Waste web site listed above. For more information, please contact Terry Grist, EPA/OSW, at 703-308-7257.

environmental items such as those that have recycled content, are energy efficient, or have reduced pollutants.

**Building Green:** GSA builds, modernizes and alters Federal facilities using sustainable design principles. The new Denver Courthouse will serve as a model for future sustainable building design.

**Driving Green:** GSA promotes and expands the fleet of Alternative Fueled Vehicles (AFVs) and promotes alternative commuting strategies. So far, GSA has purchased over 18,500 AFVs. GSA is partnering with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and industry through the Clean Cities Program. For example, in 1996, GSA worked with the State of West Virginia and Ford. As a result, 100 percent of the 154 light vehicles provided to customers throughout West Virginia that year, were Alternative Fueled Vehicles.

**Saving Green:** In the 257 million square feet of Federal office space that GSA manages, the agency has promoted energy and water conservation. As a result, GSA uses 17.1% less energy today than it did in 1985, and these efforts will continue.

To help GSA do even more in these four areas, Planet GSA calls for everyone to help reduce, recycle, and increase their use of environmental products, to adopt sustainable design in all buildings, to make wiser transportation decisions, and to increase energy savings and promote renewable technologies. There are efforts underway to partner with other Federal agencies and local governments to improve the quality of the air, which supports President Clinton's climate change initiative.

Even employees who are not directly involved in Buying, Building, Driving or Saving Green can participate in protecting the environment by doing things everyone can do such as recycling, using environmental products, turning off lights and idle equipment, and taking the stairs.

For more information about Planet GSA call 202-219-0965 or 202-208-7929.

# Stepping into the Winner's Circle

An unprecedented pollution prevention venture has been recently formed in the State of Texas: The Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership. Chartered in 1997, the Partnership is the largest in the nation, with 25 agency members, and has taken credit for reducing waste generation at several military installations in Texas.

The goals of the Partnership are to: 1) Promote an open dialog and create the free flow of pollution prevention information; 2) Use pollution prevention as the preferred environmental alternative to enhance the mission while reducing the generation and release of pollutants into the environment; 3) Integrate pollution prevention into everyday activities.

The Partnership, composed of several Department of Defense (DOD) facilities, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), the Texas Army National Guard, and NASA's Johnson Space Center has conducted non-regulatory pollution prevention site assistance visits in about a dozen military installations. These visits have identified 400 opportunities for reductions in hazardous waste, nonhazardous waste, air emissions, water usage, and energy conservation.

For example:

- A site visit at Laughlin Air Force Base identified 30 pollution prevention options. The base has already phased in five options and is saving more than \$60,000 annually.
- A complete pollution prevention assessment was performed at Fort Hood, Texas, which included numerous types of maintenance shops for all types of

vehicles and aircraft. As a result of the assessment, Fort Hood has reduced the number of products with hazardous material from as many as 137 to just 18 items. This project has saved money and personnel time, while reducing the use of hazardous materials, and improving worker health and safety.

- DOD is also working with the TNRCC on the Small Town Environmental Program (STEP), which offers self-help to poor Texas communities to solve their water and wastewater needs. Army Reservists are completing a wastewater sewer project for the community of Clarksville in East Texas. The town will gain an improved infrastructure without the conventional costs for labor and heavy equipment. At the same time, Reservists gain the opportunity to use this project for training. Discussions are under way for this same type of partnering effort in other communities.

The Partnership has already proven its value with measurable positive results and has become a nationally recognized model. Similar partnerships are now being developed in Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, New Mexico, Georgia, and South Carolina.

This effort is truly "Sowing the Seeds for Change" by making pollution prevention the first choice in environmental management at federal and state agencies across the country.

**Note: The Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership, was a 1998 Closing the Circle Award Winner in the "Sowing the Seeds for Change" category. See article on page 3 to see how you can be a winner in 1999.**

## Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

**Fran McPoland . . . . . Federal Environmental Executive**

Linda Mesaros . . . . . Chief of Staff, OFEE

Juan Lopez . . . . . Deputy Chief of Staff, OFEE

Dorothy Little . . . . . AARP, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dana F. Arnold . . . . . U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

John M. Evett . . . . . U.S. Department of Energy

The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive wishes to thank the U.S. General Services Administration for their help and support in producing this newsletter.

**Receive Closing the Circle News by Mail or by going to our website ([www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)).**

For mail delivery fill out and send the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Closing the Circle  
401 M Street, SW  
(Mail Code 1600)  
Washington, DC 20460

Fax: 202-401-9503

E-mail: [mcpoland.fran@ofee.gov](mailto:mcpoland.fran@ofee.gov)

Federal Recycling Program  Printed on Recycled Paper

Containing a minimum of 20 percent post-consumer fiber.