Reprinted from Closing the Circle News, Issue 38 (Fall 2005).

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Integrates Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Into Environmental Protection Program Goals

The Office of the Secretary of Energy recently approved an important change to DOE Order 450.1, Environmental Protection Program, establishing new Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Environmental Stewardship goals, and incorporating FEC strategies for achieving the new goals. The Order requires DOE sites to integrate pollution prevention into their Environmental Management Systems, and provides a number of supporting strategies for achieving the new goals. FEC-related strategies put forth in the Order include green electronics procurement, enabling electronics power management capabilities, and recycling of surplus (end-of-life) electronics.

Under the leadership of John Spitaleri Shaw, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health (and Agency Environmental Executive), the Office of Pollution Prevention and Resource Conservation developed five performance-based goals and over thirty strategies for achieving the goals, all of which underwent an intensive six month departmental review, comment and resolution process in 2005. Two of the goals, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Post-Consumer Material Recycling, include a number of FEC-related strategies for DOE sites consideration, such as specifying a preference for procurement of environmentally preferable electronics qualified through the Electronic Procurement Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) or its successor; and utilizing accredited recycling services as an environmentally compliant means for disposition of end-of-life electronics. The full-text of DOE Order 450.1,Chg 2,along with the new Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Environmental Stewardship goals and strategies is available for viewing at

http://www.directives.doe.gov/pdfs/doe/doetext/neword/450/o4501c2.pdf.

Now that the change to the Order has been approved and the new Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Stewardship goals are in place, DOE expects to begin reporting on its performance achieving the goals in the "Greening the Government" progress reports prepared annually pursuant to Executive Orders 13101 and 13148.

For more information on DOE Order 450.1 Chg 2, contact Jane Powers in the DOE Office of Pollution Prevention and Resource Conservation at 202 586-7301 or at jane.powers@eh.doe.gov. For information on electronic stewardship, contact Jeff Eagan (jeff.eagan@eh.doe.gov or 202-586-4598) or Al Sikri (jatam.sikri@eh.doe.gov or 202-586-1879).

Reprinted from Closing the Circle News, Issue 38 (Fall 2005).