

Closing the Circle News

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Recycling in America: The Future is Looking Great

by Fran McPoland, Federal Environmental Executive
Chair, White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling



Recycling in America is often portrayed in the popular press as a feel-good activity. It is much more than that. Recycling is rapidly becoming ingrained into how American corporations, colleges and universities, and government agencies go about their daily business - not just in managing their waste but in basic decisions about what raw materials to use and whether or not to purchase a recycled content product. By ignoring these changes, most portrayals of recycling provide a cliched, one-sided, and limited portrayal of the costs, but not the benefits, of recycling in the United States.

The White House Task Force on Recycling was established by President Clinton in Executive Order 13101. The Task Force, in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, prepared a publication on the benefits of recycling, "Recycling...for the future, Consider the benefits," which can be viewed on our web site at <www.ofee.gov>. The Task Force documented and quantified eight categories of benefits

resulting from recycling:

- Reduces the need for new landfills,
- Prevents emissions of many air and water pollutants,
- Saves energy,
- Supplies valuable raw materials to industry,
- Creates jobs,
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions,
- Stimulates the development of greener technologies, and
- Conserves resources for our children's future.

For example, without recycling, we would need 92 new landfills large enough to serve the combined city populations of Dallas and Detroit by the year 2005. Even if there is no landfill "crisis" in the U.S. now, there is no reason to continue to waste precious natural resources and land on additional landfills in the future. And there is no reason to increasingly place these landfills in somebody else's backyard. The legacy of waste problems must be solved by this or future generations. Inattention now will force our grandchildren to solve the problems while billions of tons of trash that we have created limits their use of the land and threatens their water supplies.

We estimate that recycling of municipal waste alone will save 605 trillion Btus annually by 2005, the equivalent of the energy used by 6 million households. It also will reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 48 million tons of carbon by 2005, the equivalent to the amount emitted by 36 million cars. And, recycling activities employ more than 2.5 percent of manufacturing workers in the Northeast and Southern U.S. Applying this to the entire nation, recycling and remanufacturing activities account for approximately 1 million manufacturing jobs

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and more than \$100 billion in revenue annually. These figures do not include the added benefits from recycling of construction and demolition debris and non-hazardous industrial by-products.

Recycling is more than "something people like to do." It is good business, and a business that is getting better. While acknowledging that Americans like to recycle because it is something positive that they can do directly for the environment, many recent newspaper articles on recycling ignore the widespread activities taking place among American corporations who are finding that manufacturing with recovered materials is cost-effective and energy-efficient. As more American corporations turn to recovered materials for their raw materials, there will be greater demand for those materials, which, in turn, will drive recycling of more materials. Domestic industries are seeking additional sources of recovered materials and developing collection infrastructures for materials not currently recovered widely. The paper industry, for example, is exploring how to increase the collection of paperboard packaging such as cereal boxes, as well as collecting corrugated containers from smaller retail outlets in malls.

Today, 67 percent of the steel produced in the U.S. is made from recovered steel. In the aluminum industry, 42 percent of production contains recovered aluminum. Over one-third of the fiber used by domestic paper and paperboard mills comes from recovered paper and paperboard instead of trees. Use of recovered materials by these key industries is projected to increase in the future because it saves energy and raw material costs.

Consider the following example of both new technology and increased collection that is driving recycling. Allied Signal, which is now part of Honeywell International, recently opened the Evergreen Nylon Recycling plant in Augusta, GA. This plant will recycle old nylon 6 carpet into caprolactam, a raw material which can then be used in any nylon 6 application - from new carpet fibers to engineering plastics, automotive fibers, and specialty films. After careful financial analysis, Honeywell determined that the recycling technology was the best option for nylon expansion because it required less capital investment than building a traditional manufacturing plant. To date, Honeywell has collected 80 million pounds of waste carpet and will be able to recycle 200 million pounds annually.

Other American industries have committed to use more recycled content products and to develop recyclable products. Notably, the domestic automotive industry and electronics industries are introducing more and more products containing recycled content parts. The Federal government purchases more than \$350 million of these products every year. In other words, we have not reached a peak with recycling activities. Rather, we are truly only seeing the tip of the recycling iceberg.

The benefits quantified by the White House Task Force reflect the national 27 percent recycling rate. As we work to

meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 35 percent national recycling goal, it is critical to have government and corporate buy-recycled programs to create markets for the materials being collected in recycling programs. The Clinton Administration is playing a leadership role in buying smarter for the environment by buying recycled-content, energy-efficient, and environmentally preferable products and services.

The American public is committed, more than ever, to increasing our recycling rates. Last November 15, a nation of recyclers celebrated the third annual America Recycles Day. Schools, workplaces, government agencies, and retail businesses hosted thousands of events in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, urging Americans to look toward buying more recycled products in the new millennium.

For example, an electronics recycling drive was held at the Trash Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, while a "Year 2000" children's recycled art calendar made its debut at the state capitol in Olympia, Washington. Many of The Home Depot stores across the U.S. set special displays of recycled content products and taught composting classes to their customers. The results: more than 2.9 million individuals pledged to recycle and buy more recycled content products. This unprecedented response on the part of American consumers will not only help recycling and the environment, but will also stimulate the growth of clean industries in the 21st century.

In November, 1998, Vice President Gore announced the National Recycling Challenge. He invited all citizens and sectors of American society to come together to maximize the many economic, environmental, and societal benefits that recycling provides. More than 70 corporations, Federal, state, and local agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations have made commitments in one or more of the following categories:

- Improve efficiency in recycling,
- Bolster community and economic development through recycling,
- Innovations in recycling,
- Promote designs for recycling,
- Close the recycling loop, and
- Champion outreach and education for recycling.

Their interest and commitments demonstrate that recycling is much more than a "feel-good" activity.

Recycling is a growth industry which offers huge economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits. It provides raw materials for finished products while at the same time reducing the need for waste disposal. Focusing only on the costs of the collection side of recycling, we miss the fact that recycling is a system providing social, economic, and environmental benefits. Next time you think about recycling, consider the benefits!

21st Century Green Procurement: On the Web

By now, it's something of a cliché to say that the Internet is changing the way we do business. But in fact, many of the Internet's most profound effects on commerce are just starting to be felt and are occurring in areas that may not immediately grab the attention of the general public.

Procurement is one of those areas. In the business-to-business (B2B) sector, there are more than 700 online marketplaces transforming how purchasing is done in scores of industries. It happens in a variety of ways: via online catalogs, exchanges, requests for proposals, auctions, and reverse auctions. Global B2B e-commerce is projected to grow from \$200 billion this year to \$1.4 trillion in 2002, according to Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Following closely on the heels of B2B is a revolution in business-to-government (B2G) transactions. The Federal government has encouraged its purchasers to take advantage of the benefits of e-commerce. Government suppliers are putting their offerings online, making it easier for buyers to source, compare, and purchase products. Of course, the Federal government itself has begun selling on the Internet - for example, via the General Services Administration's GSA Advantage! online catalog, via Buyers.gov, a new site where the government will auction excess inventory, and via the new Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS).

The fact that e-procurement can simplify supply chain management, make product information more readily available, and reduce costs is clearly good news for efficiency buffs and fiscal hawks. It is also a momentous development for environmentally conscious purchasers.

The reason is this: Major obstacles to green purchasing related to availability, performance, and price can be eliminated, or at least greatly reduced, if purchasers embrace e-procurement.

To begin with, consider availability. The Federal government's buy-recycled mandate recognizes that it isn't always easy to identify green vendors, and therefore provides an exception where products "are not reasonably available." What is reasonably available may change, however, when a purchaser can use an online marketplace to instantly locate multiple suppliers of relevant products, and identify which supplier can deliver a certain quantity of product within a fixed time. In fact, as it becomes routine for suppliers to post comprehensive, up-to-date information on the web about product inventory, it will become clear that availability problems have more to do with lack of information than lack of products in the market. As a result, the obstacle of availability should largely disappear.

Green purchasing is also inhibited by concerns about product performance. In fact, the buy-recycled mandate contains an exception where a purchaser determines that a recycled content product is not comparable in performance to a traditional alternative. Too often, however, these determinations are made without sufficient information and

simply reflect unfounded preconceptions about the inferiority of green products. The B2B/B2G commerce model should help solve this problem. Online marketplaces can provide users with easy access to essential information about the quality of green products, such as test results, detailed performance data, seals of approval, and ratings and feedback from actual buyers. With this information, buyers will likely find that green products are usually of equal, if not superior, quality compared to non-green products.

Price has been another obstacle to environmental purchasing - and again, Buy Green programs recognize "unreasonable" cost as a permissible exception to mandated purchasing. E-procurement, however, can help dissolve price barriers in a number of ways.

For instance, online marketplaces allow purchasers to compare prices for green products instantly, ensuring that they always get the best value. Increased market transparency should help dispel the myth that green products always cost more than traditional alternatives. Already, purchase prices for some green products (e.g., retread tires, remanufactured toner cartridges) are lower than traditional counterparts. And with e-procurement, prices for all green products should become more competitive. Why? Because suppliers who sell through online marketplaces will have lower marketing and distribution costs and higher sales volume, allowing them to charge lower unit prices even as they generate more profit.

E-procurement will also allow purchasers to make more accurate financial comparisons between green and non-green products; comparisons that go beyond initial purchase price and take into account environmental externalities such as chemical runoff and release of toxic chemicals. Interactive tools will make life-cycle cost analysis easier than ever before, allowing a buyer to immediately compare not just the purchase price, but the relative maintenance cost of the product over any number of years. Just imagine: "Product X costs 10% more today, but click here to see why it will save you 50% over the next five years."

There are also burdens associated with the fact that the market for green products is highly fragmented, with thousands of small and mid-sized companies manufacturing and distributing products. This fragmentation results in high "process" costs (i.e., the time and energy required to search for, compare, and evaluate products), particularly for Federal purchasers who must, in certain cases, obtain multiple quotes or conduct open bidding. But here too, e-procurement can help. Bidding requirements can simply be incorporated into standard interfaces for online purchasing, so that buyers automatically comply with procurement rules.

Finally, online marketplaces allow suppliers and purchasers to take advantage of valuable services related to purchasing.

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Online tracking of product orders means no more expensive phone calls or lost faxes. Replenishment services remind buyers ahead of time when they need to refill an order. Automated reporting makes it easier for purchasers and

supervisors alike to keep track of spending and compliance with Buy Green mandates. All these are services that are much harder, if not impossible, to deliver offline.

In short, the B2B/B2G revolution may transform not just how we buy, but what we buy - making it easier and cheaper to procure products that are environmentally preferable.

Buying "Green" Made Easy

Government

Green procurement online is quickly becoming a reality. The General Services Administration currently sells recycled content, energy efficient, and environmentally preferable products through GSA Advantage! (see www.fss.gsa.gov/environ).

At www.jwod.com, the online catalog of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, users will find an Environmentally Friendly Products Store.

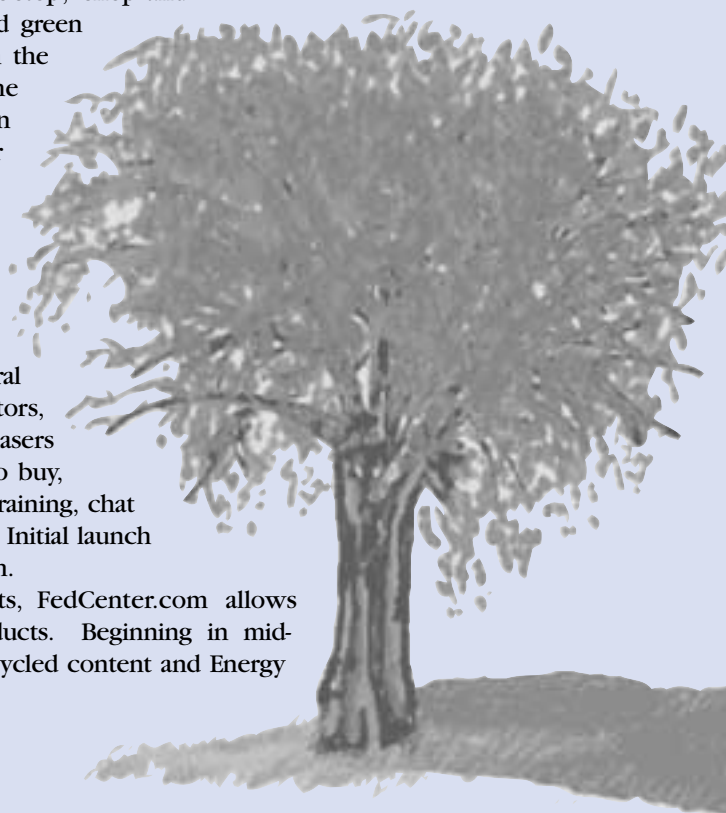
The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) has made it easier for Federal purchasers to identify "green" products through the Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS), which is commonly known as the Federal Catalog. More than 7 million items of supply are included in the Federal Catalog. A new element has been added to help customers satisfy Executive Order 13101 and the increased emphasis on "buying green." This new element, called an environmental attribute code (ENAC), indicates whether items have positive environmental attributes, or whether they are considered "green." Currently there are four attributes: recycled content, energy efficiency, water conserving, and low volatile organic compound. The presence of an ENAC in the Federal Catalog indicates that a product meets strict, definable environmental standards and criteria from an approved certifying organization, or that a product may be third-party or "service-preferred" as an environmentally preferable alternative product.

In late summer 2000, a new DLA, World Wide Web-based Environmental Product guide (EPRO) will debut. The site will exclusively showcase "green" products and serve as a one-stop, "shop and buy" source for both stock-numbered and part-numbered green products. Customers will be able to shop directly from the guide and order through standard requisitions or the government purchase card. For more information on FLIS or EPRO, visit <http://www.epro.dlis.dla.mil> or <http://www.buygreen.dlis.dla.mil>.

Commercial

At least two commercial, electronic market places will help government buyers to purchase green products. A new company called GreenOrder.com is creating an online marketplace geared to the needs of Federal government employees and Federal government contractors, expanding later to serve state and local government purchasers and the private sector at large. More than just a place to buy, GreenOrder.com will feature news and articles, online training, chat forums, and other valuable green procurement resources. Initial launch will take place in September, 2000 at www.greenorder.com.

While not designed to offer solely green products, FedCenter.com allows government purchasers to find a broad range of products. Beginning in mid-September 2000, purchasers will be able to search for recycled content and Energy Star products within each product category.



Green products are easily identified in the Environmental Products Guide (EPRO) by this tree symbol.

Partnering With Small Business To Create "Green" Opportunities

America's 25 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private work force, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs in the United States economy.

Small businesses:

- hire a larger proportion of employees who are younger workers, older workers, and workers who prefer to work part-time,
- provide 67 percent of workers with their first jobs and initial on the job training in basic skills,
- provide approximately 75 percent of the net new jobs added to the economy,
- provide 47 percent of all sales in the country, and
- account for 35 percent of Federal contract dollars.

The Federal government has launched outreach efforts to help make small businesses aware of the advantages of becoming "green." One initiative involves the Procurement Marketing and Access Network (Pro-Net) system. Pro-Net is an electronic gateway of procurement information, for small businesses and about small businesses; it is a search engine for contracting officers, a marketing tool for small firms, and a link to procurement opportunities and other small business information. Pro-Net is an online database of more than 200,000 small, disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses. Pro-Net, which is maintained by the Small Business Administration (SBA), is free to Federal and state agencies, as well as prime and other contractors seeking small business contractors, subcontractors, and/or partnership opportunities.

The White House Task Force on Recycling and SBA are working together to add a "green" identifier to Pro-Net, where small businesses that sell "green" products and services can be readily identified. This will be a plus for small businesses in that it will allow them an opportunity to market their green potential and open up greater procurement opportunities for them. It will also be a plus for Federal government contracting officers and other potential users who are required by law, Executive Order, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation to buy recycled content and other green products. Pro-Net will also contain a link to web sites that contain information on green products. Vendors who provide recycled products and services will be identified first, to be followed by those vendors who provide environmentally preferable products and services, including biobased products.

The Task Force and SBA have partnered in the past to provide information concerning "green" purchasing to small businesses. Materials and brochures on Executive Order 13101, Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, were distributed throughout the country to Small Business Development Centers to inform small businesses of "green" procurement opportunities and greening the government efforts.

Federal government agencies can take a leadership role in promoting green small businesses. Each agency's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization/Office of Enterprise and Development (OED) can get the word out to small businesses by :

- featuring articles in trade publications and other media sources,
- providing information to groups that support small businesses,
- presenting information at meetings and networking sessions,
- hosting "green" products/services events,
- using videos, posters and brochures, and
- posting to websites.

An example of one agency's leadership effort to "green" small business is the General Services Administration's (GSA) new initiative to expand its environmental program to the Small Business community. Last year, GSA awarded \$10.6 billion in contracts to small businesses. "We are a big buyer," Administrator Dave Barram said. "That's not lost on us. We know that when we say, this would be a good thing to do, it matters to somebody who is trying to make a profit." Jackie Robinson, Associate Administrator, Office of Enterprise Development (OED) added, "With GSA influencing \$10.6 billion in the Federal Supply Schedule procurement program, it's easy to see how significant the impact that "Greening Small Businesses" can be."

What does all of this mean to small businesses ?

- As small business owners learn about contracting opportunities, they will also receive information about the agency's environmental focus.
- Small businesses with environmental products will be encouraged to get on the appropriate Federal Supply Service (FSS) Schedule(s). The more environmental products on Schedule, the greater the selection for the customer.
- Standard solicitation clauses already encourage vendors to include their environmental information in their submittal. These clauses will be emphasized to promote to vendors that GSA is looking for "green" products.
- GSA employees will point out to small businesses the benefits of offering environmental products on Schedule by highlighting the marketing advantages and the annual sales of environmental products.
- Small businesses can tout to Federal customers the environmental benefits of their products such as "energy efficient," "made with recycled content" or "contains no ozone depleting substances."

The Federal government has been very aggressive in its

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Greening Building Design: Eloquent and Environmental

Construction and renovation of Federal buildings provide significant opportunities to use green products and sustainable design concepts. Recognizing this, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Defense (DoD) have developed tools and infrastructure necessary to green the Federal buildings of the future. In his July 25, 1998 radio address, President Clinton stated that the Department of Defense and six other Federal agencies would adopt "sustainable design" guidelines for all new federal buildings. Since then, building green has caught on in a tremendous way, not only within the Federal government, but in the private sector as well. Less than one year later, Executive Order 13123, Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, was signed, stating that Federal agencies will incorporate sustainable design principles in the siting, design, construction, and commissioning of new facilities.

The first tool needed was the sustainable design guidelines. An interagency working group on sustainable design, convened under the DOE Federal Energy Management Program, developed six principles for sustainable design. The principles cover the essential topics of site, energy, water, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and operations and maintenance. The principles can be viewed electronically in the Whole Building Design Guide at www.wbdg.org, an online resource offering practical suggestions for incorporating sustainable design to all agencies and the private sector.

Another necessary tool is the relevant provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The sections of the FAR addressing acquisition planning, design requirements, and architect and engineering firm selection all provide for the specification and use of energy efficient, recycled content, and environmentally preferable products. The FAR requires use of specifications that identify materials manufactured with recovered content material, as well as the development of a construction strategy. As a result, agencies such as DoD, GSA, and EPA are requiring architecture and energy firms to specify recycled content and environmentally preferable products.

Specifications, solicitations, and contract clauses are also needed for green building. EPA's Environmentally Preferable

Purchasing program is gathering examples of contract language and specifications for green products, including construction products. This data base, found online at <http://notes.erg.com>, will help construction designers and contractors include sustainable materials in building. GSA developed clauses for its leases, as described in the box accompanying this article.

Believing that good building design incorporates environmental and energy considerations as well as aesthetics, Federal agencies have been leading the way to sustainable building design. As a result of Executive Order 13123, GSA and the Navy require architect and engineering contractors to have experience in designing green buildings and require projects to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. LEED, a green building rating system that can serve as both criteria and measurement for building projects, was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a national coalition representing all segments of the building industry. Membership in the U.S. Green Building Council has been growing as architects, engineers, product manufacturers, and municipalities want to learn more about sustainable design and how to make it a part of the way they do business. This is essential to change the standards of the construction industry and to continue the trend towards sustainability.

Both a building's overall design and the individual products used in the building's construction and finishing can be green. Recycled content, sustainably harvested, rapidly renewable, and biobased materials must become a part of our standard selection considerations. Fortunately, several Federal programs help us to identify these products. The Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines direct agencies to purchase certain recycled content products, including many construction and landscaping products. Similarly, the Energy Star products and Energy Star buildings programs point to opportunities for energy efficiency.

Agencies can support environmental initiatives by becoming leaders in the field. While the governmental funding processes can slowdown an agency's ability to

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"greening of the government" efforts. In the future, a proactive partnership between the Federal government and small business can help us expand our "greening" opportunities and play an important role in protecting the environment, increasing the number of green products and services, and promoting new markets for green products, services, and technologies. We invite

small businesses to join with us in the future to create more "green" opportunities.

For more information on the White House Task Force's efforts, visit the web site at <http://www.ofee.gov>. Information on Pro-Net can be found at <http://pro-net.sba.gov>. To learn more about the GSA OED efforts, visit the GSA website at <http://www.gsa.gov/planetgsa> or the OED website at <http://www.gsa.gov/oed>.

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incorporate sustainable design practices, the establishment of strong environmental initiatives and energy saving policies enables agencies to lead the green building effort for the next decade and beyond.

As more green Federal buildings are occupied and the benefits related to efficiency, satisfaction, productivity, health, and operations can be quantified, evidence needed to continue changing our building practices will be substantial. It won't be long until Federal agencies begin constructing the best examples of the future of green building.

Greening the Government for the Future: Building Design at GSA

GSA is revising standard guidance to reflect sustainable design principles throughout its building processes. Not only must buildings be durable, secure, cost-effective, and productive, they must also have aesthetic qualities and be sustainable. GSA's message to architects is that a building must be efficient, provide a healthy environment for its occupants, and be an integral part of the community in which it's located.

GSA updated the standard Solicitation for Offers (SFO) for leased space to include sustainable design provisions, and added new clauses addressing construction waste management, reuse of building materials, recycled content products, and sustainable wood products. Other clauses have been modified to include environmentally preferable products or at least encourage their use.

When individuals understand the basis for change they are more likely to ensure the goals are met. In order to meet this challenge, GSA developed a comprehensive internal training program with the goal of enhancing the application of sustainable design principles into GSA's new construction and repair/alteration processes. Over 400 employees have attended the training to learn how building green can be integrated into their responsibilities and existing program objectives.

GSA is also revising the Facilities Standards for Public Buildings (P100) to incorporate sustainable design principles to a greater extent. Building green is now a standard part of building expectations and processes, rather than an added option or feature to be eliminated during value engineering or other cost cutting exercises. Integrated design processes ensure that building systems have been optimized for peak efficiency, material utilization, and performance. The result should be buildings that are more durable, have higher customer satisfaction, lower operating costs, and greater flexibility in meeting future demands - qualities that extend the value of the taxpayer's money and help satisfy an agency's performance standards.

Agencies should also use incentives and measures are needed to track their progress toward green building goals. GSA introduced a "Demolition Derby Award" for the regional office that most actively pursues construction and demolition waste management. GSA also included an environmental building award in the Planet GSA awards. Regional offices have developed their own sustainability initiatives and have set internal goals to acknowledge the value of building green and to keep the momentum going.

EPA Regional Headquarters, Kansas City, KS

Per Scholas

"Bridging the Digital Divide"

"We must continue to make strategic investments in human capital, namely, education, and ... give everyone a chance to share in our prosperity"

Vice President Al Gore

Nov. 6, 1998

Speech to the Transatlantic Business Dialogue

As information technology continues to advance our ever-expanding economic and social lives, computer literacy is critical for everyone's success. However, a U.S. Department of Commerce study called *Falling Through the Net* reports that lower-income households are 20 times less likely to have access to the Internet. Of a greater concern is the news that, 90 percent of all African American and Hispanic families lack access to the Internet. The truth is, without access to online tools, residents in low-income areas will undoubtedly be less competitive at work, in school, and in the commercial marketplace as more products and services are offered online. In turn, this lowers opportunity for not just low-income Americans, but for all, because it denies everyone the productivity underutilized workers would have otherwise provided.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is partnering with Per Scholas in its de-manufacturing and training efforts. USPS is donating 15,350 personal computer (PC) systems for recycling, as well as providing USPS vehicles to transport computers for reconditioning to Per Scholas, and to distribute the refurbished units to families without home computers. These surplus computers would have wound up in landfills, but instead are providing further services. First, they serve as job training resources for Per Scholas to train low-income residents how to fix and up grade computers. Second, in-home computing with Internet access is provided, allowing everyone in the South Bronx to join in the America's historic prosperity.

"This is what government can and should do to transform people's lives," said Mike Fanning, Total Resource Management Project Manager, U.S. Postal Service. "Our surplus electronic equipment is the feedstock that will bridge the 'digital divide' in this community, providing families and organizations with personal computers and access to the Internet. Our partnership with Per Scholas demonstrates the Postal Service's commitment to be a leader in the voluntary take-back movement, and to reaffirm our commitment to the diverse communities that we serve."

Per Scholas, which means "for schools," is a not-for-profit computer de-manufacturer and recycler founded by a consortium of foundations and corporations, with a mission to bridge the "digital divide" by creating computer access to

under-served, low-income schools and families. Located in the heart of the South Bronx, in the poorest congressional District in the United States, Per Scholas is demonstrating that technical jobs not only can exist there, but that local community residents can be trained, qualified, and gainfully employed there and throughout the New York metropolitan area. Deborah MacFarlane, President of Per Scholas, says "residents of low-income communities need access to learn and access to earn."

Through a rigorous 12-week, 360 hour course, Per Scholas uses surplus computers from USPS and elsewhere, to prepare local community residents for jobs as computer technicians. To date, 197 men and women have graduated from the course, and of these, more than 85 percent started in jobs averaging \$9 to \$15 per hour with benefits and opportunities for further advancement – a giant step out of poverty.

For school districts with limited budgets that serve children and families with limited means, Per Scholas assembles new computers and labs. In the last four years, through an integrated package of hardware and software, Per Scholas has built, installed and serviced more than 16,000 new computers for 1,200 schools and nonprofit organizations in 22 states serving students of low and moderate income school districts.

From its new 100,000 square foot computer recycling center in South Bronx, Per Scholas operates a full-service disposition outlet for large volumes of computers coming out of service. Due to the lack of recycling infrastructure for computers and other electronic equipment in the U.S., many if not all of these computers would have wound up in landfills. In addition to the USPS, J.P. Morgan, Chase Manhattan, Con Edison, Morgan Stanley, MONY, U.S. Trust, and Deutsche Bank/Bankers Trust also give their used computers to Per Scholas. Computers are initially sorted to determine if some units simply can not be upgraded to Internet ready status. Then proprietary information is removed from incoming computers because software such as MS Windows, which are sold under licensing agreements, must be removed from the old machines. Per Scholas separates incoming equipment into two streams: recent-



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model equipment, which is reconditioned for families, and older equipment that has reached end-of-life, which is de-manufactured and recycled. Per Scholas reconditions Pentium-level computers as affordable, multimedia, Internet-ready systems with a one-year warranty, and toll-free help-desk support – for \$250. Per Scholas refers to these systems as the Access line of computers, and makes them available to community-based organizations, like Housing Authorities, for distribution to low-income families.

Per Scholas now employs 34 men and women in its recycling center, created 14 new permanent jobs, and

enabled Per Scholas to expand its successful job training program. The new venture will create 60 transitional jobs for program graduates, providing additional job skills, placement services, and on-the-job work experience in the private sector.

With partners such as the United States Postal Service and a pool of leading foundations and corporations, Per Scholas is bridging the digital divide to improve the lives of individuals. By recycling, Per Scholas is also working to ensure that our children will enjoy a material and environmental quality of life even better than our own. If you want to know more about Per Scholas, visit their website at www.perscholas.org or call at (800) 877-4068.

Currently, the Department of Defense is serving as chair of an interagency group consisting of the White House Task Force on Recycling, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and USPS. The Work Group is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that permits the pursuit of common strategies for developing and implementing environmentally preferable and energy efficient practices and technologies throughout the life cycle of electronic equipment. The group is reviewing the final report from its predecessor working group, the Federal Electronic Asset Management Task Force. Through this review effort, the Electronics De-manufacturing Work Group hopes to identify unresolved or outstanding issues that could be incorporated into the work plan. By working together, the member agencies seek to eliminate the environmental impact of their electronic equipment through continuous improvements to the acquisition, design, specifications, material choices, manufacturing processes, assembly technology, distribution, and use of new electronic equipment, and the reuse, de-manufacturing, and recycling of surplus electronic equipment.

Building Green at the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, IL

This \$65 million military construction project for nine barracks, housing 2242 sailors, has been one of the most successful sustainable design projects accomplished to date by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and has been instrumental in advancing sustainable design principles within NAVFAC.

This project was selected by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Pilot Phase project and participated with USGBC in evaluation of LEED criteria. It also won a White House Closing the Circle Award this year in the category of Model Facility Demonstration.

NAVFAC has developed a specification for construction waste management, which requires the contractor to develop a waste management plan, and has been adopted by NAVFAC as a guide specification. It has subsequently been used on

many other projects throughout the United States to encourage waste reduction and recycling of construction debris. In this particular project, one example of waste management included the recycling of existing asphalt and concrete and the reuse of existing brick.

NAVFAC incorporated many energy efficient and resource efficient materials and strategies in this project, including native plant species, high efficiency windows, non-Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants, and low volatile organic compound paints, sealants, and adhesives. The NAVFAC sustainable showcase project demonstrates successful use of sustainable design concepts on Military Construction projects. It also demonstrates how sustainable design concepts can be successfully applied to the two-phase design/build process, which has become one of the major acquisition processes used within NAVFAC.

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Recently Added and Now Available:

- Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 13101
- White House Task Force on Recycling: Green Purchasing Presentation – PowerPoint training materials
- Federal Acquisition Regulation: Requirements Supporting Procurement of Recycled Content Products and Environmentally Preferable Products and Services
- The Paper Calculator – allows calculation of environmental and energy impacts of decisions to use recycled content paper and paper products
- Greening the Government: A Report to the President on Federal Leadership and Progress
- Greening the Government Executive Orders:
 - 13101 – Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition
 - 13150 – Federal Workforce Transportation
 - 13149 – Greening the Government Through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency
 - 13148 – Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management
 - 13123 – Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management
- Recycling ...for the Future: Consider the benefits – documents and quantifies eight benefits of recycling
- Recycling... for the Future: It's everybody's business – Public and private success stories in recycling efficiency, community and economic development through recycling, innovations in recycling, design for recycling, closing the recycling loop, and recycling education and outreach
- Guidance for Presidential Memorandum on Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Landscape Practices on Federal Landscaped Grounds

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