



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration
Northeast & Caribbean Region

GSA R2-06-111
For Immediate Release
July 31, 2006

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

NEW YORK CITY - The U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Northeast and Caribbean Region announced today that it appears on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) list as one of the nation's Top 10 Federal Government Green Power Partners. The GSA Region is also on EPA's Top 25 list of the largest national purchasers of green power currently in the Green Power Partnership.

GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region (NECR) continues to be a front-runner in the federal government's green power initiatives and has received numerous awards for its achievements. "By using green power the federal government is not only setting a great example, but is helping to improve our environmental performance and increase demand for renewable resources nationwide," said GSA Regional Administrator Emily R. Baker. "Our efforts help support the President's goal to safeguard the environment, reduce our dependence on energy from abroad, and help keep energy prices reasonable for consumers."

This Top 10 list highlights federal government agencies within the Green Power Partnership that have completed the largest annual voluntary green power purchases through June, 26, 2006. "Green power" is defined by the Partnership as electricity products that are partially or entirely generated from environmentally preferable resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and low-impact biomass and hydro resources. The NECR is recognized for its voluntary purchase of 76,366,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power which it purchases in the form of biogas and wind-generated electricity from several providers.

Renewable energy sources produce little to no net greenhouse gas emissions and are cleaner for the environment. Green power helps accelerate the development of new, domestic renewable energy generation facilities nationwide.

"GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region is providing an excellent example for the general public, its employees, vendors, the federal government, and community by purchasing green power," said Blaine Collison, program director of EPA's Green Power Partnership. GSA's actions are helping reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use, as well as the risks associated with climate change."

Among GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region's recent noteworthy accomplishments:

- Energy use at regional 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 750 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.

About the U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership

EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program helping to increase the use of green power among leading U.S. organizations. The program encourages organizations to purchase green power as a way to reduce the risk of climate change and the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. Currently, the Green Power Partnership has more than 600 Partners voluntarily purchasing over 5.3 billion kWh of green power. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500 companies, local, state, and federal governments, trade associations, as well as colleges and universities.

For more information on EPA's Top 10 Federal Government Partners list, visit

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top10/federal.htm>.

For more information on EPA's Top 25 list, visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top25.htm>.

For a full listing of the more than 600 EPA Green Power Partners and information about buying green power, see the Partnership's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/>.