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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 is pleased to announce that it has been named one of the top 25 green power purchasers by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region is a frontrunner 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 the President'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. In addition, by purchasing green power from these renewable resources, we are helping to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign energy."

President Bush, in outlining his national energy plan, has made the use of reliable, affordable and environmentally-sound energy a priority for America's future and has stressed the vital need for comprehensive energy legislation that will sustain this nation's economic growth and lead it toward greater energy independence.

Green power is electricity from environmentally-preferable renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass, or geothermal power. It currently accounts for about two percent of America's electricity supply, but voluntary purchasing of renewable energy is accelerating renewable energy development. EPA's top-25 list includes a diverse set of companies and organizations that have voluntarily bought the most renewable energy and are part of EPA's Green Power Partnership.

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Among the Region's recent noteworthy accomplishments:

- In 2002 GSA's Energy Center of Expertise, in conjunction with the Northeast and Caribbean Region, awarded the first contract in agency history to provide 100% wind power for two upstate New York federal buildings. Power generated from wind turbines located on the Fenner wind farm in upstate New York generates the necessary electricity into the upstate electric grids to power federal buildings in Binghamton and Utica, NY. These were the first GSA owned and operated facilities to procure wind power.
- In 2003 another wind power contract was awarded on behalf of EPA for its offices at 290 Broadway in Lower Manhattan, covering approximately 45% of the building's total annual energy consumption.
- The region further demonstrated its green power leadership in 2003 by aggregating the purchase of green power for other federal agencies' respective requirements. This "bulk purchasing" resulted in green power rates that were, in fact, lower in some federal facilities than if the agencies acquired conventional, more-polluting electricity created by fossil fuels. Additional contracting by the region for green energy sources also includes the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the United Nations, the United Nations Secretary General's official residence, NJ Social Security Administration, the Coast Guard, and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Laboratory in Edison, NJ.
- Within GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region energy use at federal facilities since 1985 was reduced by approximately 26% - and this is despite the tremendous increase in the use of office automation equipment that everyone has experienced during the same period.

The Green Power Partnership is an EPA voluntary program working to standardize green power procurement as part of best practice environmental management. Partners in the program pledge to switch to green power for a portion of their electricity needs in return for EPA technical assistance and recognition. The Green Power Partnership currently includes more than 550 Partners, including Fortune 500 companies, states, federal agencies, trade associations and universities.

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.

