Denver Recognized with Silver Level Award from State Electronics Challenge

Today, State Electronics Challenge (SEC), a nationwide environmental sustainability initiative that challenges government agencies to 'green' office equipment management, announced the City and County of Denver has been selected to receive the Silver Level Award for its green purchasing and responsible electronic office equipment recycling.

Denver is one of only 12 organizations nationwide to be recognized, and one of two in Colorado. Denver's Environmental Management System coordinated this effort with the Department of Environmental Health, Technology Services and General Services.

In 2015, Denver committed to purchasing computer and imaging equipment that is qualified by the Electronic Procurement Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®) standard. EPEAT is an internationally recognized system that identifies office equipment that meets specified environmental performance criteria. It also ensures that at the end-of-life, equipment is recycled by a third-party certified electronics recycler.

Through these efforts, Denver reduced 839 metric tons of carbon emissions, which is enough to power 672 households and remove 603 cars from the road for one year.

'Denver is proud to be recognized for our continual efforts to seek new ways to reduce the environmental impact of our operations,' said Mayor Michael B. Hancock. 'This recognition from the SEC confirms that our sustainability initiatives are making a difference.'

'The City and County of Denver is truly an outstanding example of a commitment to environmental leadership,' said Lynn Rubinstein, State Electronics Challenge Program Manager.

The State Electronics Challenge offers its participants annual opportunities to document their achievements and receive recognition for those accomplishments. In 2015, the reported actions of 31 participants in green purchasing of electronic office equipment, power management, and responsible recycling resulted in a total of more than 1,250 tons of electronics being recycled, which, along with power management and green procurement:

- Prevented the release of almost 12,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E). This reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to the annual emissions from 8,612 passenger cars
- Saved enough energy to supply 7,845 homes per year
- Avoided the disposal of hazardous waste equivalent to the weight of 2,120 refrigerators
- Avoided the disposal of solid waste - garbage - equivalent to the amount generated by 388 households/year

A full list of winners and their environmental accomplishments can be found on the State Electronics Challenge website (www.stateelectronicschallenge.net).

'The State Electronics Challenge provides state, tribal, regional and local agencies, as well as schools, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations with a great opportunity to integrate concepts of sustainability and waste reduction into their operations,' added Ms. Rubinstein. 'It's inspiring to see programs developed and implemented, such as the City & County of Denver's, to ensure that the highest environmental practices are met through the lifecycle of office equipment.'

The State Electronics Challenge awards were made possible through donations from Samsung, Panasonic, and the R2/R10S Program.

The State Electronics Challenge assists state, regional, tribal, and local governments to reduce the environmental impact of their office equipment. It annually recognizes the accomplishments of Partner organizations. The Challenge is administered by the Northeast Recycling Council (www.nerc.org). Currently, 157 state, tribal, regional, colleges, schools, universities, and local government agencies, and non-profit organizations, representing more than 212,600 employees, have joined the SEC as Partners. For more information on the SEC, including a list of current Partner organizations, visit www.stateelectronicschallenge.net.