



A Few Green Points

Point Reyes National Seashore Monthly Sustainability Newsletter

October 2012, Issue 10

Point Reyes Earns Silver For E-Stewardship

For the second year in a row, Point Reyes National Seashore was a recipient of the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Award for electronics stewardship activities completed during Fiscal Year 2011. This year Point Reyes was awarded at the silver level, a step higher to last year's bronze award. The Seashore completed a number of mandatory and optional activities in two of the three electronic product life-cycle phases under the FEC. The three life-cycle phases include Acquisition & Procurement, Operations & Maintenance, and End-of-Life (EOL) Management.

The Seashore became an FEC Facility partner in 2010. The FEC is a partnership program managed by the EPA and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) to encourage federal facilities and agencies to purchase greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use and to manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

In FY2011, 100% of all computer desktops, laptops, and monitors purchased, leased, or acquired for the park were EPEAT (Electronic Product



Photo: (Left) Ryan Scavo, Park Facility Management Division-WASO, accepting the award for Point Reyes National Seashore (Credit: Charles Watkins, U.S. Department of Energy)

Environmental Assessment Tool) registered. 100% of all other major electronics purchased, leased, or acquired met at least three positive FEC Key Environmental Attributes.

This year's awards ceremony was held at the Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, D.C. on September 26. Among the recipients

include organizations in the U.S. Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, Treasury, and others.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/fec/>

America Recycles Day, Nov. 15 10am -2pm
E-Waste Drive @ Bear Valley Visitor Center
(Additional info on next page)
Questions? Call Dale Dualan 415-464-5100
ext. 5942 or Sara Hammond ext. 5165

Clean Water Act Turns 40

Forty years ago, the first law to address water pollution was amended to create what is known today as the Clean Water Act (CWA). Formerly the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948, the CWA of 1972 stemmed from growing public awareness and concern for controlling water pollution, advocating for cleaner and healthier waterways. This expansion of the 1948 law established the following

amendments in 1972

- established a basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into U.S. waters
- implemented pollution control programs and set wastewater standards
- set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters
- funded construction of sewage treatment plants under the construction

grants program

- increase planning to address non-point source pollution problems

Some results over the years from the CWA include:

- 60 percent more Americans served by publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities
- More than 2,000 water bodies

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identified as impaired now meet water quality standards

• Cleaner public drinking water- the number of Americans receiving water that met health standards rose over 90 percent

With landmark achievements through the CWA- cleaner water, less pollution, there is still work to be done through waste reduction, water conservation, pollution prevention and compliance measures to protect and maintain our waterways for the next 40 years and beyond.

For more information on the CWA visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/cwa.html>

Recycled vs. Post-Consumer Labeling

Many products you see today are often labeled as “recyclable,” “recycled” or labeled with a certain percentage of “recycled content.” Sometimes this may be the stand alone label or it might be labeled with an additional “post-consumer” or “post-consumer-recycled content” percentage label. What’s going on here? Let’s take 100% recycled paper for example. This “100%” claim does not necessarily mean that it was 100% derived from used paper or content that you disposed of in your recycling bin and recovered. A recycled content claim applies to products made from materials that have been recovered or otherwise diverted from the landfill either during the manufacturing “pre-consumer” phase of the after-consumer-use phase (“post-consumer”). Essentially you can have a product that is labeled with a percentage of recycled content made from, in many cases, recovered pre-consumer raw material. So the next time you see a product that is *only* labeled with a percent amount of recycled content, you won’t know for sure if it contains any post-consumer recycled content unless a) it’s labeled, b) you call the company to find out or do some research, or c) a website will clarify the claims. For more information on environmental marketing claims, visit: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm#260.7>

America Recycles Day

On November 15th at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, from 10am – 2pm, Point Reyes National Seashore will host an electronic waste (e-waste) recycling collection, joining thousands of local organizers holding recycling events across the country to celebrate America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

Please note following items will be accepted:

- All computers and related accessories and peripherals
- Audio/video equipment
- Wires, cables, and power cords
- Small kitchen appliances
- Cell phones, PDAs, and telephones
- Small Printers, scanners, and faxes
- Printer toner and inkjet cartridges

NO Dry cell batteries (AA, AAA, etc.), Light bulbs of any kind, Large household appliances such as refrigerators and stoves, furniture, commercial copy machines, VHS, cassette, 8-track tapes, HAZARDHOUSE WASTE.

All e-waste will be taken to Renew Computers in San Rafael CA for recycling. For more information about e-waste recycling at Point Reyes National Seashore visit: <http://americarecyclesday.org/join-event?zip=94956> or call Dale Dualan at (415) 464-5100 x5942.

About America Recycles Day

America Recycles DaySM is a national program of Keep America Beautiful, and is the only nationally recognized day and community-driven awareness event dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Since its inception in 1997, communities across the country have participated in America Recycles Day on November 15 to educate, promote environmental citizenship, and encourage action. Learn more at AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

Upcoming Dates & Events

- November 4 – Daylight savings time ends.
- November 14 - My Green Parks Webinar, 1-2:30pm (eastern)
- November 15 – America Recycles Day – E-Waste Drive at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, 10-2pm.



Monthly Challenge

It’s getting colder! Layer up with warmer clothes as an alternative to turning up the thermostat.



Have any questions? Comments? Or a story or topic you’d like to suggest or contribute? Feel free to contact Dale Dualan at 415-464-5100 x5942 (email: DaleDualan@partner.nps.gov) or Sara Hammond at 415-464-5165 (email: Sara_Hammond@nps.gov)