

## Sustainable Operations News

Monthly E-Newsletter from Sustainable Operations

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### Weekly Highlight

Sustainable Operations team members from the Washington Office read to Bailey's Elementary School students for Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Week.

## Gifford Pinchot Recycling Efforts A Success



The Gifford Pinchot spent last week cleaning up office space, consolidating for recycling broken and obsolete electronics, other office materials and general recyclables. In celebration of America Recycles Day and as a way to finish off clean-up week, they all chipped in and recycled everything we could.

### The Results:

- eliminated 12+ cubic yards of waste from a large dumpster by separating and recycling
- two filled 4-yard recycle containers
- filled a van with donations of household goods and clothing for the Ark of Clark County
- filled a large moving van with electronics for recycling from our office and employees' homes
- a dozen+ pallets and other wooden materials recycled

It was no cost to the agency other than the time employees dedicated to the process. However, there was a fee for the paper-shredder truck which helped with the recycling of sensitive paperwork. The event was a huge success.

The GP Green Team would like to thank everybody for their efforts!



## CIO's Green Efforts -- IT Recycling Services

### Want to get rid of an old computer at your desk that you're no longer using?

The Chief Information Office is helping you clear out old equipment through a program called IT Recycling Services. It creates a simplified method to remove old IT equipment from your office for disposal or reuse. Approved equipment for disposal includes older computer models, scanners, monitors, fax machines, printers, radios and more. .

### Worried about someone having access to your personal information?

All donated equipment will be wiped using special software certified by the Department of Defense. Strong Tech, the vendor working with EPA for disposal, has a zero landfill policy for e-waste and ensures equipment is safely and properly recycled.



### Pricing Info:

15 computers + additional equipment = no charge.

15 computers + additional equipment = flat fee of \$500

To eliminate the fee, CIO suggests partnering with other departments to donate equipment. Users will have to complete the AD-107 as part of this process. The form and instructions are located on the [IT Recycling](#) website.

It's estimated that IT Recycling will save the USDA \$2.5 million over a four year period.

The website includes a one page description of what is recyclable, the process for recycling and a fee list (if any). For more information, visit [IT Recycling](#) or send an e-mail to [IT\\_Recycling@fs.fed.us](mailto:IT_Recycling@fs.fed.us).

## Upcoming Events

December

**12/6/10- Chief's Holiday Party 2-4pm** (featuring Bailey's Elementary School students caroling for employees)

**12/15/10- Open Mic, 1pm**  
All FS employees are welcome to join the call and share ideas or project about sustainability.  
**Call in number:** 800-857-2016 **Passcode:** 8091384

**Meet Your Sustainability Superheroes!**



**Watch Video:**

<http://www.conferences.icohere.com/susops>

Register. Initial username & password is SUSOPS.  
Click "Summit Cafe"  
Click "Introductions & Heroes"

## Region 5 Regional Office Hosts E-Waste Recycling Event

The Region 5 Regional Office (RO) Green Team hosted an E-Waste Recycling Event November 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> in recognition of America Recycles Day. This FREE event was conducted in partnership with Federal Prison Industries UNICOR – a government-owned corporation with the mission of employing and training incarcerated Federal inmates.

This collaborative effort, involving employees from Information Management, Acquisitions Management, Property/Asset Management, and Engineering, was greatly received by employees. There were 17 volunteers from 11 staffs.

### **The Results:**

**15 pallets of e-waste**  
**260 government owned items**  
**40 personal items**  
**10 cell phone**

The electronic equipment was either refurbished and distributed to local schools or dismantled and recycled.

This E-Waste Recycling Event served to minimize disposal to landfills and reduce the energy plug load of the RO from equipment that was plugged in but no longer used. The event also coincided with [President Obama's Presidential Proclamation on America Recycles Day](#) about our nation's growing e-waste challenges.

You can learn more about Unicor's e-scrap recycling program here: <http://www.unicor.gov/recycling/>.



## 2010 Annual Sustainable Operations Summit - Virtual Success!

The Southern Region (R8) and Southern Research Station (SRS) kicked off the 2010 Sustainable Operations Summit in Atlanta, Georgia from November 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Participants from regions all over the country tuned in as presenters in Atlanta and in remote locations shared information highlighting sustainable operations taking place agency-wide.



Approximately 600 participants tuned in to the summit online. The goal for the summit included using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to maximize virtual participation and minimize emissions from business travel. The sessions were broadcasted on line via iCoHere where participants could watch, interact and follow along with presenters. The website also included message boards where participants could share ideas, opinions, success stories and pictures from the summit.

Presenters from remote locations also hosted conference rooms where other Forest Service employees were invited to watch the session. Most remote locations hosted five or more employees, not including those who watched from computers at work.



Sessions included information on green purchasing, youth and community engagement, sustainability in urban development and much more. A list of sessions held, as well as slides and videos from presentations are available on the [summit website](http://conferences.icohere.com/sustainableoperations)<http://conferences.icohere.com/sustainableoperations>.

Special thanks to those who participated and presented in the summit this year!

## Northern Research Station's Energy Saving Computer Plan



Northern Research Station recently took initiative to reduce energy consumption from idle computers by launching a project for lab users at the station. The project was created in hopes of significantly reducing energy use and generating cost savings in the upcoming year. By using simple power setting adjustments, users can continue using computers normally while saving about 400-kilowatt hours annually (according to Intel).

Eric Gustafson, Director of the Institute of Applied Ecosystem Studies who launched the new project, recommended the following computer settings to maximize energy use:

Turn off monitor in 20 minutes or less  
System standby in 60 minutes or less

To ensure compliance, unannounced repeat check-ups will be scheduled four times a year to verify the settings have been updated. The check-up that only takes about 60 seconds can earn the employee using the computer one hour of administrative leave to be used at the employee's discretion.

Also according to Intel, by switching computer settings, it can generate an estimated \$40-\$80 savings annually per computer while reducing environmental impact. Go green!

## The Fleet Tool is HERE!

This tool has been developed for YOU to use. What it does is connects vehicle cost, greenhouse gas emissions, and your needs together and recommends vehicles available from GSA. You can then use these recommendations to help your unit reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet and save money by selecting a less expensive option, all while getting where you need to go. The tool has two methods of looking up vehicles:

### 1: Vehicle advisor

Asks strategic use questions developed by Forest Service Fleet managers

Recommends a variety of vehicles that will meet your use needs

### 2: Compare your current vehicle to a new vehicle:

Uses EMIS data to pull up records on your current vehicle and allows you to select any type of vehicle to compare it to

So [try it out](#), print your report and start saving money and greenhouse gas emissions!



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