Challenge: The Federal government is the nation's largest consumer of electronics, and it generates a lot of scrap electronics through the normal life cycle. Federal legislation requires electronics to be disposed of using certified electronic recyclers which reduces the impact on landfills. It is challenging for one agency to collect enough e-waste to make it cost effective for the certified electronic recyclers to pickup the electronic devices. Shipping to the recyclers can be costly and time consuming.

Action: The General Services Administration (GSA) building managers worked with the tenants in specific federal buildings in the Atlanta area to consolidate their e-waste to justify the recycler to come onsite to pick up the equipment. GSA's Federal Acquisition Service's (FAS) Personal Property Program provided training to ensure participating agencies were compliant with Federal Management Regulations. The Office of Personal Property Management helps federal agencies dispose of personal property that is no longer needed. Training topics included the Proper Disposal of Electronics and Abandonment and Destruction. Agencies use abandonment or destruction of government-owned personal property that has no value or the estimated cost of its continued care and handling exceeds the estimated proceeds from sale. Agencies recycling electronics for this event were responsible for making the determination that the items qualified for Abandonment and Destruction (FMR 102-36.305 - 330).

GSA Building Management provided large bins at the loading dock of the Federal facility to collect the electronic materials from multiple Federal agencies. Personal Property Program arranged for a certified electronic recycler to pick up the e-waste. The GSA partnered with the Federal Prison Industries, a certified e-recycler, to dispose of the Federal agencies' scrap electronics. Federal Prison Industries, also known as UNICOR, is a United States government corporation created as a prison labor program for inmates within the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Solution: The GSA partnered with the UNICOR to provide a green solution for Federal agencies to dispose of their scrap electronics by hosting an Electronics Recycling event in the Atlanta area. Federal agencies located in the Richard B. Russell, Martin Luther King, Jr., Peachtree Summit Federal buildings and the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center were provided the opportunity to dispose of their obsolete, broken, and unusable electronic equipment of any size for free.

Result: The Electronics Recycling event was held at the Atlanta Federal Center loading docks in June 2017. Twelve agencies recycled more than twelve tons of electronics. Approximately 54 pallets of electronics were removed from federal offices by UNICOR.