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NCUA Media Release

Staff Enthusiasm Boosts NCUA Effort To Strengthen Environmental Practices

'Green Initiative' Helps Agency Improve Efficiency, Reduce Waste

April 22, 2010, Alexandria, Va.- A far-reaching new Green Initiative, dubbed "greeNCUA," has helped reduce the environmental impact of everyday operations and has helped inspire employees to focus on improving environmental protection, the National Credit Union Administration said today as the federal agency marked the 40th national observance of Earth Day.

"Earth Day reminds us of our responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment and to use natural resources wisely," said NCUA Chairman Debbie Matz. "The progress that NCUA has made in adopting environment-friendly policies reflects our employees' public-spirited support for conserving the nation's resources."

The "greeNCUA" initiative was launched in the fall of 2009 after Matz, upon being confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Chairman of NCUA, made strengthening environmental efforts one of her top goals for the agency. "NCUA will be a model corporate citizen, recognizing the responsibility to implement environmentally sound practices and procedures whenever and wherever feasible," she asserted in setting forth a wide-ranging set of goals for improving the agency's performance.

A Green Committee within the agency's Central Office in Alexandria, VA, reviewed environmental practices both at the agency's headquarters and at its five regional offices around the country. A continuing flow of employees'

suggestions has helped put environment-friendly practices at the heart of daily NCUA operations.

Recycling programs, energy-efficiency improvements and increased communication about environmental concerns have helped the agency reduce its consumption of resources, limit its carbon footprint and restrain its operating costs.

After conducting an energy audit to help evaluate its environmental impact, NCUA now takes such steps as using recycled paper and materials; turning off its building systems at 6 p.m. on weekdays and keeping them turned off throughout weekends; recycling light bulbs, paper, glass, aluminum, and toner cartridges; and using green-certified cleaning and maintenance materials.

After pursuing just one pilot effort to recycle office paper, one NCUA regional office recently reported that an independent evaluation had found that recycling 262 pounds of paper saved an estimated equivalent of two trees, 17 gallons of oil, 917 gallons of water and 524 kilowatts of electricity.

The National Credit Union Administration is the independent federal agency that charters and supervises federal credit unions. NCUA, with the backing of the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, operates and manages the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, insuring the savings of over 90 million account holders in all federal credit unions and the majority of state-chartered credit unions.

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