club's Bike Bucks program and exchange information with other cyclists. City Bikes mechanic Paul Reighard provided free bike checks and tune-ups to bike commuters. Patty Yergey distributed water bottles and stickers on behalf of the Chesepeake Bay Foundation to emphasize the connection between greener commuting and a healthier environment.

NIHBCC President Angela Atwood-Moore, a research associate in the Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Development, NICHD, said she was "ecstatic to see a long line and a giant crowd of cyclists all huddled onto the patio in front of Bldg. 1. I think we sent a message to the NIH community that we're here and that bike commuting can be fun!"

Sanford Markey, a senior investigator with NIMH, has biked to work for 30 of the 33 years he has worked at NIH. "Once you start biking, you don't want to drive again, knowing that you could get there on a bike," said Nicki Devore, who works for FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research on NIH's campus. "It's better for the gas bill, the environment and your health."

Several NIH'ers regularly make bike commuting a family affair. Mary Lilly, an investigator in NICHD, rides in with her 4-year-old daughter Sarah Kuziora, who attends day care at Parents of Preschoolers, Inc. Giovanni Cardone, a postdoctoral visiting fellow at NIAMS, brings his 22-month-old daughter Maria with him to campus by bike.

Ava Asher, an NIAID fellow, demonstrated her dedication to bike commuting by making her regular commute from Van Ness even though her tires went flat the night before and again at the end of her commute. "I found a way to commute by bike that avoids any traffic," she said, noting that it takes her the same amount of time to commute by bike as it does to take public transportation.

NCI's Friedman, deputy chief of the Protocol and Information Office in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, feels that everyone should give bike commuting a try because of the positive contribution it makes to the environment and health. "We within the federal government should be leaders in that area," he said.

For more information about bike commuting, including routes, club mentors' contact information, a list of NIH shower, locker and parking facilities and a moderated list-serve where members can ask questions and share information, visit www.recgov.org/r&w/nihbike/.

On hand for the White House award are NIH'ers (from l) Capt. Ed Rau, Dan Reggia, Diane Frasier and Don Wilson.

NIH Receives White House Electronics Recycling Award

Do you ever wonder how NIH handles the thousands of pieces of computer equipment that turn over here and how we minimize the environmental impact of this activity?

NIH was recently selected by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) as a winner of the 2007 Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign as a result of its emphasis on recycling and reuse. Federal agencies were encouraged to compete in this campaign which began last November and ended in March. NIH won in the large civilian agency category based on the quantities of used electronic equipment that were reused or recycled. The total last year was over 260 tons.

NIH received the honor at a ceremony held at the White House. Accepting on behalf of NIH were: Diane Frasier, director, Office of Acquisitions Management and Policy, OFM; Dan Reggia, chief, Property Utilization Branch, OLAO; Don Wilson and Capt. Ed Rau, Division of Environmental Protection, ORF.

The award-winning program is operated by the Property Utilization Branch, OLAO. Their first goal is to reuse property within NIH. Laboratories here frequent the warehouse in Gaithersburg in search of various types of scientific and computer equipment that is available to them at no cost. Many items are in excellent condition. Other federal agencies in the area can also obtain the equipment; the FDA, NIST, USGS, Departments of Defense and Justice and the Smithsonian Museums are the most frequent customers. Each year, $10 million to $20 million of NIH equipment is reused by other federal agencies, eliminating the need to purchase new equipment and saving taxpayer dollars.

NIH also operates an extensive school donation program for public and private schools (grades K-12) that can generally qualify to receive computers, printers, monitors and other IT equipment. Colleges and universities throughout the country can also qualify for donations of scientific equipment. In all, the branch averages $25 million to $30 million in equipment donations to schools annually.

Electronic equipment not acquired by federal agencies or schools is either sold or shipped to a General Services Administration facility for recycling. The recycler pays the government for the items. Proceeds from sales are used to offset NIH disposal and operating costs. The current recycling facility meets all EPA regulations and certifications for processing and disposal of the equipment.

Environmental improvement goals such as these are supported by the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS); many employees are working to help find ways for NIH to minimize its environmental impact. For more information on NEMS, visit www.nems.nih.gov or email green@mail.nih.gov.