



Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

Assisting Purchasers - Rewarding Leading Designs

Did you know that finding a green computer is just a click away? The EPEAT™ product registry (www.epeat.net) contains more than 730 computer desktops, monitors and notebook computer models that meet minimum environmental performance criteria for toxicity, energy use, recycled content, design for recycling, and more. EPEAT™-registered products also meet the latest ENERGY STAR® 4.0 performance requirements for energy efficiency. The EPEAT™ product registry is simple to use, and currently includes product offerings from more than 27 major manufacturers - such as Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, NEC, Panasonic, Samsung, Sony, and Toshiba.

The U.S. EPA sponsored the development of EPEAT™, also known as the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool. As of January 2007, EPEAT™ is a requirement for federal computer and monitor purchases as the result of an Executive Order issued by President Bush.

PURCHASING EPEAT™-REGISTERED COMPUTER PRODUCTS

EPEAT™ simplifies the process of purchasing environmentally preferable computer products by:

- Defining **specific environmental attributes** for computer systems. For purchasers, this eliminates the complex and time-consuming process of deciding what constitutes a “green” computer and how to evaluate bid responses.
- Providing a **searchable database of EPEAT™-registered products** that purchasers can use to survey the market to determine product availability.
- Establishing an **evaluation and verification system** to assure purchasers that the product meets the EPEAT™ standard. Purchasers only need to verify that a product is in the EPEAT™ database of registered products, and leave the evaluation and verification process to the EPEAT™ organization, the Green Electronics Council.
- Offering a **three-tier rating system** that allows organizations to select equipment that meets minimum performance criteria or to give preference to models with additional environmental attributes by specifying a higher EPEAT™ qualification level.

HOW EPEAT™ WORKS

The EPEAT™ system evaluates computer products according to three tiers of environmental performance – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The complete set of criteria includes 23 required and 28 optional criteria in eight (8) performance categories:

- Reduction of Toxic Materials
- Materials Selection
- Design for End of Life
- Life Cycle Extension
- Energy Conservation
- End of Life Management
- Corporate Performance
- Packaging

To qualify for EPEAT™ registration, a product must conform to all the required criteria. A manufacturer can choose among the optional criteria to boost its EPEAT™ total “score” to achieve a higher-ranking level as follows.



Product meets
All required criteria.



Product meets all required
Criteria plus at least
50% of the optional criteria.



Product meets all required
Criteria plus at least
75% of the optional criteria.

A complete list of EPEAT™ performance criteria is available on the EPEAT™ website (www.epeat.net). EPEAT™ was accepted as an American National Standard in April 2006 as IEEE 1680, Standard for Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products, including Notebook Personal Computers, Desktop Personal Computers, and Personal Computer Monitors. EPEAT™ is now the required method of product environmental assessment for computer products for federal agencies.

The EPEAT™ product database allows purchasers to search for EPEAT™-registered products by manufacturer, model, and EPEAT™ qualification level (that is, Bronze, Silver, or Gold.)

QUANTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EPEAT™ PURCHASES

A [free calculator tool](#) is available to assist purchasers in estimating the environmental benefits of purchasing EPEAT™-registered products. For example, purchasing 1,000 EPEAT™-Silver registered computer desktop systems (CPU + LCD) saves:

- 821,000 kWh of energy, enough to power 72 households for a year;
- 64 MTCE of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to removing 51 cars from the road per year; and
- 164 pounds of toxic materials, including lead and mercury.

MODEL PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATION

Sample language for use in procurement specifications is available on www.epeat.net to facilitate the adoption of EPEAT™ as the preferred standard for purchasing computer products.

Through a grant from EPA Region 3, the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) can help businesses, institutions, and government agencies to purchase green computers and monitors by providing technical assistance and outreach to support the use of EPEAT™.

For more information about using EPEAT™ contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#), NERC.