

# OP 12: Electronics Purchasing

**1 point available**

## Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that are supporting markets for environmentally preferable computers and other electronic products.

## Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## Criteria

Institution purchases electronic products that are:

- *EPEAT* registered,
- Third party certified under a multi-attribute sustainability standard or *ISO Type 1 ecolabel* developed/administered by a Global Ecolabelling Network or ISEAL Alliance member organization (e.g., Blue Angel, TCO Certified, UL Ecologo), AND/OR
- Labeled under a single-attribute standard for electrical equipment (e.g., ENERGY STAR, EU Energy A or higher, or local equivalent).

Included are desktop and notebook/laptop computers, displays, thin clients, tablets/slates, televisions, mobile phones, and imaging equipment (copiers, digital duplicators, facsimile machines, mailing machines, multifunction devices, and printers and scanners). Specialized equipment that EPEAT does not register may be excluded.

A product that meets multiple criteria (e.g., a product that is both EPEAT registered and ENERGY STAR labeled) should not be double-counted.

## Scoring

An institution earns the maximum of 1 point available for this credit for purchasing exclusively EPEAT Gold products and/or products that are third party certified at the highest achievable level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of purchased products that are EPEAT registered at each level, third party certified under multi-attribute sustainability standards, and/or labeled under single-attribute standards, as outlined below. For example, an institution that purchased 50 percent EPEAT Gold and 50 percent uncertified products would earn 0.5 points (half of the points available).

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

| EPEAT registration, certification, or label   | Factor |   | Annual expenditures on environmentally preferable electronics |   | Total annual expenditures on electronics |   | Points earned  |
|---|--------|---|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| EPEAT Gold and/or certified at the highest achievable level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard | 1      |   | _____   |   |  |   |                |
| EPEAT Silver and/or certified at mid-level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard                  | 0.75   | × | _____   | ÷ | _____                                    | = |                |
| EPEAT Bronze and/or certified at minimum level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard              | 0.5    |   | _____   |   |  |   |                |
| Labeled under a single-attribute standard   | 0.25   |   | _____   |   |  |   |                |
| <b>Total points earned →</b>  |        |   |   |   |  |   | <b>Up to 1</b> |

## Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Total annual expenditures on electronics (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on products that are EPEAT Gold registered and/or third party certified at the highest achievable level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on products that are EPEAT Silver registered and/or third party certified at mid-level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on products that are EPEAT Bronze registered and/or third party certified at minimum level under a multi-attribute sustainability standard (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on products that are labeled under a single-attribute standard (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Do the figures reported above include leased equipment?
- ☐ A brief description of the time period from which the figures reported above are drawn (e.g., one-year time period or representative sample)

### Optional

- ☐ Website URL where information about the institution's electronics purchasing is available

- Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## **Measurement**

### Timeframe

Report the most recent data available from within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Institutions may track purchases over a full one-year time period, report average annual expenditures over a two or three year period, or estimate annual expenditures based on a representative sample. When using a sample, institutions should strive to ensure that the sample recognizes seasonal and other variations that influence purchasing behavior.

At a minimum, the figures provided must include electronics expenditures by the institution's central purchasing unit, department, portal, or vendor. Other electronics expenditures may be excluded at the institution's discretion to simplify reporting.

## **Standards and Terms**

### **EPEAT**

EPEAT is a certification for computers and other electronic products. The standard's evaluation criteria include: energy efficiency, reduction and elimination of environmentally sensitive materials, materials selection, design for end-of-life, product longevity and life cycle extension, end-of-life management, corporate performance, and packaging characteristics.

### **ISO Type 1 ecolabel**

The International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) has identified three broad types of voluntary labels, with ecolabelling fitting under the strongest Type 1 designation. Consistent with the Global Ecolabelling Network, a Type 1 ecolabel is a "voluntary, multiple-criteria based, third party program that awards a license that authorises the use of environmental labels on products indicating overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on life cycle considerations".