

### PURPOSE

This resource provides answers to questions from federal employees about the ENERGY STAR® program and the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®). Acquisition of ENERGY STAR qualified and EPEAT-registered electronic products is required for all federal organizations, including Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Partners.

### ENERGY STAR AND EPEAT

Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance* and Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Subpart 23 both require federal acquisition of ENERGY STAR qualified and EPEAT-registered electronic products.

Federal agencies must require ENERGY STAR qualified and EPEAT-registered products: in contract specifications for the purchase or lease of personal computer products; when purchasing applicable products from agency Blanket Purchase Agreements or Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts; and when otherwise acquiring applicable products, such as through purchase card procurements.

#### What is ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR is a greenhouse gas reduction program that helps consumers identify energy efficient products that save them money and offer the features and functionality they value. The label is available on over 60 product categories as well as homes and buildings. ENERGY STAR products are third party certified and verified. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains lists of products that meet their respective ENERGY STAR specifications at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). Electronic products on these product lists are "ENERGY STAR qualified."



ENERGY STAR is staffed and managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with support from the U.S. Department of Energy.

#### What is EPEAT?

EPEAT is a system to help purchasers evaluate, compare and select electronic products based on their environmental attributes. The EPEAT Registry includes products that have been declared by their manufacturers to be in conformance with the IEEE 1680 Family of Environmental Assessment Standards. "EPEAT-registered" products must meet criteria in the multiple performance categories, such as: material selection, design for end of life, energy conservation, and packaging. The EPEAT Registry and performance criteria are at: [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).



EPEAT is staffed and managed by the Green Electronics Council (GEC), a program of the International Sustainable Development Foundation (ISDF), a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization.

#### How are ENERGY STAR and EPEAT connected?

All EPEAT-registered products are required to meet the ENERGY STAR technical specifications for that product, in addition to meeting other environmental performance criteria. Federal government purchasers are required to procure products which are both ENERGY STAR qualified and EPEAT-registered.



## ENERGY STAR® and EPEAT® for Federal Purchasers

Updated: 6/19/2012

### How are ENERGY STAR and EPEAT different?

The programs differ in terms of focus and structure as well as the products covered (see table below).

Program Approach	ENERGY STAR	EPEAT
<b>Product Categories</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 product categories, including computers and displays, TVs, and imaging equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, computers and displays (<i>TVs and imaging equipment to be added early 2013</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Life Cycle Stages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product use phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All phases of the lifecycle</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenhouse gas reductions through energy conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction/elimination of environmentally sensitive materials</li> <li>Material selection</li> <li>Design for end of life</li> <li>Product longevity/life extension</li> <li>Energy conservation</li> <li>End-of-life management</li> <li>Corporate performance</li> <li>Packaging</li> <li>For relevant products, indoor air quality and consumables</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria Development Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Via process managed by EPA that balances key program principles, articulated in ENERGY STAR Products Program Strategic Vision and Guiding Principles, and relies on broad stakeholder engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Via ANSI accredited standard development organization IEEE that involves multiple stakeholders utilizing consensus based decision making</li> </ul>
<b>Verification Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-market third party certification conducted by EPA-recognized labs and certification bodies</li> <li>Verification fees are paid by the manufacturers to third party certifiers for certification services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post market third party certification conducted by Product Registration Entities</li> <li>Verification fees are paid by the manufacturers to third party certifiers for certification services</li> </ul>
<b>Product Registry Maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed by the EPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed by the Green Electronics Council</li> </ul>

### Are all ENERGY STAR qualified products EPEAT-registered, and vice versa?

All EPEAT-registered products must meet the ENERGY STAR technical specifications. Not all ENERGY STAR qualified computers and displays are EPEAT-registered, because EPEAT includes other required environmental attributes in addition to energy efficiency.

### What happens with EPEAT-registered products when an ENERGY STAR specification is revised?

All the IEEE 1680 standards currently used by EPEAT have a dynamic link to the ENERGY STAR specifications. Therefore, when the new ENERGY STAR specifications go into effect, all EPEAT-registered products must meet them. Products registered with EPEAT that do not meet a new ENERGY STAR specification when it goes into effect are removed from the EPEAT Product Registry.

### How do I ensure proper credit for the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified products?

Purchase of products that are qualified to the current ENERGY STAR specification for that product is necessary for meeting federal electronics stewardship requirements. Purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified



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products is reported in each agency's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and for each agency's Office of Management and Budget's Energy and Sustainability Scorecards.

### **How do I ensure proper credit for the purchase of EPEAT-registered products?**

Federal agencies will receive credit for EPEAT-registered purchases, if the purchased products were actively EPEAT-registered at the time of purchase. Purchase of EPEAT-registered products is also reported in each agency's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and for each agency's Office of Management and Budget's Energy and Sustainability Scorecard.

### **REFERENCES**

The text of Executive Order 13514 is available at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/eo13514/>.

The FAR is available at: <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/>.

More information about ENERGY STAR is available at their website: <http://www.energystar.gov/>.

More information about EPEAT is available at their website: <http://www.epeat.net/>.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions related to this resource or need other assistance with the Federal Electronics Challenge, please contact your Regional Champion: <http://www2.epa.gov/fec/technical-assistance>.

Visit the FEC online: <http://www2.epa.gov/fec/>

E-mail the FEC: [fec@epa.gov](mailto:fec@epa.gov)