



# ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR COMPUTERS, MONITORS, TABLETS, & MOBILE PHONES

The District of Columbia is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost that support the District in meeting its sustainability goals. Compliance with specification guidance is sufficient to meet PPRA Section 1101(a) environmentally preferable procurement requirements. Additional context is provided here to assist in the implementation of the specification. To access solicitation documents with full contract language, [click here](#).



## Scope

The environmental specification addresses the following product categories:

1. Desktop computers
2. Notebook (laptop) computers
3. Computer displays (monitors)
4. Mobile phones
5. Tablets

The specification categorizes desktop computers as “integrated desktop computers” and “workstation desktops,” notebook computers as “thin clients” and “workstation notebooks,” and tablets as “tablets/slates” based on the EPEAT registry classification.

## BENEFITS

**2,200**

Megawatt-hours of electricity could be saved each year if the District utilizes only EPEAT Gold computers and monitors

This would result in a reduction of **1,144** metric tons of greenhouse gases and save the District **\$265,000** per year

SOURCES

<https://epeat.net/calculators>

## COPY AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATION LANGUAGE INTO THE REQUIREMENTS SECTION OF YOUR STATEMENT OF WORK

### EPPS Requirements

Desktop computers, notebook (laptop) computers, computer displays (monitors), tablets, and mobile phones purchased by the District of Columbia shall meet the environmental criteria defined below.

Products shall be certified to at least one (1) of the following standards:

- Listed on the [U.S. EPEAT registry](#) with a rating of Gold, using the most recent version of the EPEAT rating system in effect at the time of purchase.
- Listed on the [TCO product registry](#).



## Background Information



**EPEAT registration** indicates that the manufacturer of an electronic product has attested that the product satisfies a standard set of environmental

criteria; compliant products are listed on the [EPEAT](#) registry. EPEAT stands for the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool. The required criteria are detailed in a corresponding standard developed by the [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers](#) (IEEE), specifically, [IEEE 1680.1](#) for personal computer products. EPEAT-registered products are classified as Bronze, Silver, or Gold. Gold products (the level set by this specification) must meet the standard's required criteria plus 75 percent of the optional criteria. These criteria address the use of hazardous substances (incorporating the requirements of the [EU RoHS Directive](#)); use of recycled content and other sustainable materials; design for end-of-life; product longevity/life cycle extension; energy conservation (incorporating the requirements of the [ENERGY STAR](#) rating system); end-of-life management; packaging; and corporate environmental performance.

EPEAT-registered products have significant market share in the U.S. and worldwide. Several jurisdictions require the purchase of EPEAT computers and monitors, including the federal government. The most common requirement is for EPEAT Silver, which means a Gold requirement would place the District in a leadership position. For computers and monitors, EPEAT is generally considered to be a reasonably stringent certification that conveys significant environmental benefits.

In 2017, approximately 203.7 million EPEAT-registered IT products were purchased worldwide, resulting in energy savings of over 38 trillion kWh and cost savings of nearly \$4 trillion. 85% of all computers and displays were EPEAT-registered.



**TCO Certified** is a leading sustainability certification for IT products. It includes a comprehensive system of criteria that is independently verified by accredited experts. [TCO Certified](#) covers both social

and environmental aspects during the IT products' life cycle, with criteria divided into product and sustainability information; socially responsible manufacturing; environmentally responsible manufacturing; user health and safety; product performance; product lifetime extension; reduction of hazardous substances; and material recovery. The certification is available for 12 product categories, including displays, desktops, notebooks, tablets, and smartphones. The criteria for each of the product categories can be found [here](#). TCO Certified products can be found using the [Product Finder](#) on the TCO website.



**Environmental Hotspots** The most important environmental benefits associated with this specification

**ENERGY CONSUMPTION** Both **EPEAT** and **TCO Certified** products must meet the technical specifications of ENERGY STAR, which sets energy efficiency performance standards. On average, ENERGY STAR computers use 30% to 65% less energy than non-ENERGY STAR models, while ENERGY STAR monitors use 25% less energy than non-ENERGY STAR models.

**RECYCLED CONTENT** The IEEE 1680 standards underlying the **EPEAT** registry include optional criteria on recycled content. **TCO Certified** requires the percentage of post-consumer recycled content and renewable materials used in each product be declared.

**TOXICITY/HEAVY METALS** Products listed on the **EPEAT** registry must comply with the EU Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), which includes limits on lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers. **TCO Certified** also includes criteria on reduction of hazardous substances such as heavy metals.

**PACKAGING** The IEEE 1680 standards underlying **EPEAT** include both required and optional criteria on packaging. **TCO Certified** requires non-reusable packaging material to be easily separable.

**END-OF-LIFE DISPOSAL** The IEEE 1680 standards underlying **EPEAT** include both required and optional criteria on provision of a product take-back service, recyclability, and several other end-of-life considerations. **TCO Certified** includes criteria on e-waste management with a focus on take-back schemes and recycling. TCO also requires that products be durable, upgradable, and repairable to ensure extended lifetime.

**Significance to the District**

**SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN** [Sustainable DC](#) Plan Climate & Environment Goal 1 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, with a goal of reducing output by 50% by 2032. Reducing energy consumption helps the District to meet this goal.

**PPRA** [PPRA § 104](#) specifies that products meet Default Environmental Standards, which include a minimum EPEAT Bronze and Energy Star standards.

**EXISTING CONTRACTS** VA-140331 & VA-14041 – Cooperative Agreements through VA give the District access to a wide array of computers. Click [here](#) to learn more about these contracts.

**LEED FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS: O&M** This specification addresses the requirements of LEED v4 EBOM. The LEED’s [Materials and Resources: “Purchasing – ongoing” credit](#) requires at least 40 percent of total purchases of electric-powered equipment (by cost) to be EPEAT-certified unless the product is not addressed by EPEAT, in which case an ENERGY STAR certification is acceptable. Ongoing consumables must satisfy other criteria in order to earn a point for this credit.

For more information about sustainable specification guidance or the District’s Sustainable Purchasing Program, please visit: <https://ocp.dc.gov/page/sustainable-purchasing-program> or call the OCP Procurement Center of Excellence at: [202.724.4477](tel:202.724.4477) or email [sppdc@dc.gov](mailto:sppdc@dc.gov).