



Phoenix, AZ: Innovation in Environmental Purchasing

City of Phoenix used creativity to purchase EPEAT through existing contract

The City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) staff had a dilemma – they wanted to purchase EPEAT-registered products, but had to work within an existing computer contract that ran until August 2007. So the staff in the Office of Environmental Programs got creative. First, they analyzed their existing contract and identified the EPEAT-registered products already on contract. They then worked closely with their Information Technology Department (ITD) to ensure all future purchases focused on EPEAT-qualified products. They trained ITD staff, who committed to monitor the models provided through the life of the current contract to ensure they bought EPEAT-registered equipment. They also worked to include EPEAT specification language into the upcoming contract Request for Proposal (RFP).



The numbers add up

Since EPEAT’s inception, Phoenix has purchased 3,253 EPEAT Silver-rated desktop systems and 247 EPEAT Silver-rated laptop units. Using the Electronics Environmental Benefits (EEB) Calculator - which measures the results gained from purchase and use of EPEAT products as opposed to conventional computer products - Phoenix has been able to quantify the benefits of these purchases – which are summarized in the featured table.

Phoenix EPEAT Environmental Benefits

3,253 Silver Desktops - 247 Silver Laptops

Measure:	How much?	Equivalent to:
Energy usage Reduced	2,701,969 kWh	the electricity needed to power 238 households annually
Greenhouse gases avoided	212 MTCE	removing 168 cars from the road/year
Hazardous waste reduced	8.6 metric tons	
Toxic material use avoided	538 pounds	
Money saved	\$234,261	

“EPEAT provides a great benchmark for the City, to not only practice environmentally preferable purchasing, but to clearly communicate the City's success to others.”

Liz Paulus, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Phoenix Environmental Services Division

Buying EPEAT products enables Phoenix to meet its policy goals to minimize the “use of toxic materials and the generation of hazardous waste” in City purchases. Their flexibility and innovative training can serve as a model for other organizations with IT contracts in place.