



Kaiser Permanente Buys Green

Kaiser Permanente leads the health care sector in demanding EPEAT

Company-wide adoption

As the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plan, Kaiser Permanente has used its market strength to demand green products. Kaiser sees Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) as a crucial way to support its mission to improve the health of its members. Kaiser’s National Environmental Purchasing Policy is a model for other organizations, guiding the non-profit to buy products that reduce toxics and save resources. So Kaiser was poised to use EPEAT when it was launched in July 2006. Kaiser’s environmental, procurement and IT staff teamed up to quickly change the organization’s contract template for computers and software to require EPEAT-registered equipment. In addition, they now include EPEAT as part of Kaiser’s EPP training for all Procurement and Supply staff.



desktops, 66,470 monitors, and 8,775 notebooks – all EPEAT registered products. 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 – Kaiser has been able to quantify those benefits. Estimated environmental results from EPEAT purchases are summarized in the featured table.

Big Purchases Get Big Results

Kaiser’s environmental leadership has resulted in major environmental benefits. Since EPEAT’s launch in July of 2006, Kaiser has purchased 60,239

"As a health care company, Kaiser Permanente is well aware of the connections between environmental issues and human health. EPEAT has helped us reach our environmental and health goals."
Dean Edwards, Chief Procurement Officer & vice-president, Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser’s Environmental Benefits from EPEAT

Measure:	How much?	Equivalent to:
Energy use reduced	55,185,675 kWh	The electricity needed to power 4,866 households per year
Greenhouse gases avoided	4,332 MTCE	removing 3,438 cars from the road /year
Hazardous waste reduced	169.4 metric tons	
Toxic material use avoided	10,398 pounds	
Money saved	\$4,784,598	

Kaiser Drives Changes in Health Field

EPEAT has helped Kaiser not only meet its own environmental procurement goals, but also sets an example for the health care sector to follow. Several other health-care companies, including a large group purchasing organization, have now adopted EPEAT in their computer specifications.