

EPEAT® Purchaser Profile The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

In 2008, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania furthered its statewide greening government goals with its commitment to purchase EPEAT® registered products. All computer desktops, monitors, and notebook computers offered to and purchased by the Commonwealth now must carry an EPEAT Silver designation or better. As a result, Pennsylvania purchased almost 50,000 EPEAT registered computer products in 2008.

PA Green Government Council Serves As Environmental Steward

Environmentally preferable purchasing is a standard practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dating back to the 1998 Executive Order creating the Governor’s Green Government Council and the more recent Governor’s Management Directive on Recycling, Waste Reduction and Procurement of Environmentally Preferable Products.

EPEAT®, a nationally recognized standard, made implementation of the Management Directive easy, according to staff in the Department of General Services, Bureau of Procurement. The EPEAT program is credible. Major manufacturers participate and it is supported by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, which made it easy to adopt as the Commonwealth’s standard for information technology (IT) equipment.

The Commonwealth’s Request for Proposals for IT Hardware, issued in March 2008, required that equipment “meet or exceed” EPEAT Silver for personal computers, notebooks and monitors. Silver was selected as the minimum requirement after a review of the EPEAT Product Registry showed that the majority of EPEAT products met or exceeded this performance level. For ruggedized notebooks, tablets and thin clients, the RFP specified EPEAT as “highly desirable” since procurement was concerned about product availability.

Leading By Example to Protect Environment

The Commonwealth awarded a three-year contract with two one-year options to Dell, Inc. Under this contract, Commonwealth agencies can select several OptiPlex 755 Energy Smart models with 22” LCD monitors, and four different Latitude notebook models, all at very competitive prices. The desktop computers offered under this contract all carry an EPEAT Gold designation, along with two of the four notebooks. The LCD monitors are EPEAT Silver.

In the one-year period from Dec. 2007 – Nov. 2008, the Commonwealth reported purchasing 49,841 computer units, including 22,412 EPEAT Gold desktop computers with an equal number of EPEAT Silver LCD monitors. Seventy-five percent (3,763) of the notebook computers purchased met the EPEAT Silver requirement, while 25 percent (1,254) exceeded it with an EPEAT Gold rating. The environmental benefits resulting from the Commonwealth’s EPEAT purchases are summarized in the table below.

Environmental Results from EPEAT®¹		
Measure:	How Much?²	Equivalent To:
Energy usage reduced	17.3 million kWh	The electricity to power 1,443 households for a year
Greenhouse gases avoided	3,255 MTCE	Removing 2,186 cars from the road for a year
Municipal solid waste avoided	21.3 metric tons	Wastes generated by 10 U.S. households annually
Hazardous wastes avoided	62 metric tons	
Toxics reduced	1.7 metric tons	

¹ Compared to non-EPEAT products; calculated using the Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator, V 2.0, 2-13-09.

² Benefits accruing over 4-year expected life for desktops & monitors; and 3-year life for notebooks.