



May 10, 2010

EPEAT® Completes First Qualified Verifier Training *Program Graduates Certified EPEAT Experts*

Portland OR: Following several years' work to develop explicit protocols and training for conformance with the IEEE 1680 and 1680.1 standards, the EPEAT green electronics rating system hosted the first *EPEAT Certificate Training Program* in Portland Oregon on April 27 – 29. The course, attended by 10 students and several existing EPEAT verifiers, ended with the granting of 12 EPEAT Certificates, indicating superior knowledge of the EPEAT standard and system, and recognizing recipients' fitness to work as EPEAT Qualified Verifiers. Over the course of 2010, EPEAT will offer this training to interested parties in Europe, Asia, and numerous North American locations.

The EPEAT Certificate Training program is designed first and foremost to develop a pool of expert Qualified Verifiers to undertake the in-depth investigative work involved in EPEAT Verification Rounds. In addition it will help manufacturers new to the system, or struggling with conformance, to better understand EPEAT requirements. Consultants who wish to shepherd manufacturers through the EPEAT product registration process will also find the course, and Certificate, useful.

“The credibility of the EPEAT registry depends on the depth and rigor of our Verification processes,” said Wayne Rifer, EPEAT Director of Standards and Verification. “Going forward, this training program will develop a pool of international Qualified Verifiers able to carry out investigations across EPEAT’s range and product scope, ensuring that the quality and quantity of Verifications will continue to scale up with the system.”



EPEAT Training Course Participants (L to R): Patricia Atherton, new QV; Patty Dillon, PVC member; Mark Schaffer, Verifier Class co-instructor; Jeff Omelchuck, EPEAT ED; Dawn Van Seggen, new QV; Carson Maxted (back row), new QV; Dresden Skees-Gregory, new QV; Stephen Greene, incumbent QV; Pamela Brody-Heine, incumbent QV; Kim Holmes, new QV; Kelley Keogh, new QV; Erin Gately, EPEAT Registry Services manager; Wayne Rifer, EPEAT Director of Standards and Verification (Not pictured, Jim Arnold, PVC member and Paul Parkinson, course attendee)

Qualified Verifiers (QVs) are contracted to carry out specific investigations in each EPEAT Verification Round. EPEAT verification activities occur with no regular schedule, with no advance warning, and are directed at specific areas where registry managers believe there is a high likelihood of nonconformance. QVs may review documentation (e.g. lab test results, supplier contracts), delve deeper into the supply chain to review evidence of adequate controls, or undertake purchase and disassembly of individual products to investigate their conformance with specific criteria. QV investigation dossiers are delivered to an expert panel, the EPEAT Product Verification Committee, with all company and product identification removed, for review and final decisions on conformance.

All findings of nonconformance are published on the epeat.net website, and communicated out to Purchasers who have registered as Purchasing Partners.

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The EPEAT system (www.epeat.net) evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance: Bronze, Silver and Gold, based on a total of 51 environmental criteria. Key benchmarks include elimination of toxic materials, design for recycling, extended product longevity, increased energy efficiency, and availability of takeback and recycling services. Ongoing Verification Rounds that select numerous criteria for in-depth investigation ensure the credibility and accuracy of the product listings. EPEAT operates country-specific product registries for 41 countries worldwide and is required by hundreds of purchasers in the government, enterprise, health care, education and SME sectors.