PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

Green Electronics Purchasing Standard

"Principia shall prioritize the purchase of electronic products that meet industry certifications intended to minimize negative impacts on ecological systems and human health and safety, while at the same time upholding financial and performance criteria."

Statement of Intent

Principia was established on the principle that "education carries with it the obligation to use technical skills and intellectual attainments for the betterment of humanity" (Policy 10), and the institution is dedicated to "seek[ing] continuously to improve its educational facilities and business practices in order to keep abreast of educational progress and in key with changing world conditions" (Policy 11). Among the ways in which Principia demonstrates dedication to its foundational policies is through a growing commit-ment to sustainable practices. The Green Electronics Purchasing Standard provides specific guidance to purchasing agents seeking to select products based on widely accepted sustainability performance criteria.

Objective

Principia's Green Electronics Purchasing Standard seeks to uphold product performance while minimizing environmental and human safety concerns. The Standard favors EPEAT® registered Computers & Displays (e.g., desktops, displays, notebooks, integrated desktop computers, workstation desktops, thin clients, tablet notebooks), Imaging Equipment (e.g., copiers, digital duplicators, fax machines, mailing machines, multifunction devices, printers, scanners), and Televisions, and ENERGY STAR® certified Appliances, and Electronic and Office Equipment for which EPEAT® certification is not available.

Preferred Product Certifications

The following product certifications are to be prioritized by Principia's purchasing agents:

EPEAT

- The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is a system that helps purchasers evaluate, compare, and select electronic products based on energy-efficiency, recycled content, lack of toxic content, and how easily the unit can be disassembled when it reaches end of life

- EPEAT considers several categories of environmental attributes that cover the full lifecycle of elec-tronic products. The "PC and Displays," "Imaging Equipment," and "Televisions" standards address:
    - Reduction/elimination of environmentally sensitive materials
    - Material selection (including packaging)
    - Design for end of life
    - Product longevity/life extension
    - Energy conservation
    - End-of-life management
    - Corporate performance
    - Consumables (unique to Imaging Equipment standard), and

    - Indoor Air Quality (unique to Imaging Equipment standard)
- EPEAT registered products are rated Gold, Silver, or Bronze[1] depending on the percentage of 28 optional criteria they meet above the baseline criteria. At a minimum, all EPEAT registered products are compliant with the ENERGY STAR® standards set when the product was released (for additional detail, see http://www.epeat.net/resources/criteria/)

ENERGY STAR

- The ENERGY STAR label is a trusted, government-backed symbol for energy efficiency
- The ENERGY STAR label was established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants caused by the inefficient use of energy, and to make it easy for consumers to identify and purchase energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort (for additional detail, see https://www.energystar.gov/about)
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes ENERGY STAR product specifications based on the following set of key guiding principles:
    - Product categories must contribute significant energy savings nationwide
    - Certified products must deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency
    - If the certified product costs more than a conventional, less-efficient counterpart, purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings, within a reasonable period of time
    - Energy efficiency can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies offered by more than one manufacturer
    - Product energy consumption and performance can be measured and verified with testing