GLOBAL ELECTRONICS COUNCIL

Sustainability for a Connected Future

Criteria Modules by Sustainability Impact

The Global Electronics Council (GEC) is undertaking a multi-year initiative to revise its EPEAT criteria for its Type 1 ecolabel to align with priority sustainability impacts of electronic products and their supply chains, including Climate Change Mitigation, Sustainable Use of Resources (or Circularity), Reduction of Chemicals of Concern, and Corporate ESG Performance. When complete, these "modular" criteria will be applied across all EPEAT product categories, including Computers and Displays, Mobile Phones, Imaging Equipment, Servers, Televisions and Network Equipment.

GEC seeks involvement from all interested and materially affected stakeholders, including industry, government policy, purchasers, NGOs, and academics. Since EPEAT is used globally, GEC welcomes participation from stakeholders around the world to ensure global relevance of criteria.

How Will the Criteria Be Developed?

Criteria will be developed using GEC's new Dynamic Criteria Development Process, which aims to expand stakeholder engagement through a streamlined process with multiple opportunities for engagement. Each of the four sustainability impact modules will be a separate criteria development project to enable maximum engagement of stakeholders and allow experts to engage in the process on topics that align with their areas of expertise. The policies governing GEC's Criteria Development Process (P74) are publicly available.

The graphic below illustrates the steps in the criteria development process. Table 1 outlines the multiple options for stakeholder participation in each sustainability impact module, what is expected of participants, and how to get involved. Stakeholders can choose how they would like to participate, and in which sustainability impact modules. The anticipated timeline for each sustainability impact module is also provided below.

Steps in GEC's Criteria Development Process

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Table 1: Stakeholder Participation Options

Participation Option	What Is Expected?	How to Get Involved
Public Comment on the Draft State of Sustainability Research. The State of Sustainability Research is an analysis of available science and data on the life cycle impacts for the topic, and strategies to reduce these impacts. This research is the foundation for criteria development.	Interested stakeholders can submit public comments on any aspects of the research, as well as submit additional data for consideration for inclusion in the research document. The public comment period is open for 30 days.	Stakeholders are notified of the release of draft State of Sustainability Research through the GEC newsletter and on the EPEAT Announcements webpage (https://epeat.net/announcements). Stakeholders can also request to be added to the "interested stakeholder" list to receive direct notification by email. To receive direct email notifications, send an email to Criteria@GlobalElectronicsCouncil.org.
Expert Ad Hoc Groups. Multi-stakeholder group of individuals with expertise on a specific topic(s). Expert Ad Hoc Groups serve in an advisory capacity to review and draft criteria to address the sustainability impacts.	Active participation in the review and drafting of criteria. Expert Ad Hoc Groups are expected to convene for 8–12 weeks by conference call, generally every 2 weeks. Calls are scheduled to accommodate the different time zones of participants. Electronic discussion and submission of comments is also used as needed and to address time zone challenges.	Stakeholders are notified when Expert Ad Hoc Groups are being formed through the GEC newsletter and on the EPEAT Announcements webpage (https://epeat.net/announcements). Stakeholders can also request to be added to the "interested stakeholder" list to receive direct notification by email. To receive direct email notifications, send an email to Criteria@GlobalElectronicsCouncil.org.
Technical Committee. The Technical Committee is the voluntary consensus body. The Technical Committee debates the merits and effectiveness of proposed criteria to ensure the criteria address priority sustainability impacts identified in the State of Sustainability Research with the goal of moving the industry and its supply chain to innovate	Each Technical Committee is expected to convene for 7 months. Technical Committee meetings will occur monthly via teleconference. Voting members are expected to review documents in advance of meetings, provide comments on criteria and actively engage in discussion (either on calls or by electronic means), and participate in the ballot process to approve criteria and reconcile stakeholder differences.	GEC is partnering with NSF International, an organization with extensive expertise in managing voluntary consensus processes, to convene and manage the Technical Committee. Voting membership on the Technical Committee is open to all interested parties by submitting the *Technical Committee Application Form*. To participate as an Observer, stakeholders should contact NSF at GBaragar@nsf.org.

and adopt best practices that achieve credible, verifiable reductions in sustainability impacts and increase transparency. The Technical Committee is made up of up to 21 voting members, representing a balance of stakeholder interests, and observers.	Observer status allows individuals to attend Technical Committee meetings and receive documents provided to the Technical Committee.	
Public Comment on Draft Criteria. The full draft of criteria for each sustainability impact module are available for public comment.	Interested stakeholders can submit public comments on the draft criteria. The public comment period is open for 60 days.	Stakeholders are notified of the release of the draft for public comment through the GEC newsletter and on the EPEAT Announcements webpage (https://epeat.net/announcements). Stakeholders can also request to be added to the "interested stakeholder" list to receive direct notification by email. To receive direct email notifications, send an email to Criteria@GlobalElectronicsCouncil.org

What Topics Will Be Covered in Each Sustainability Impact Module?

Climate Change Mitigation	Sustainable Use of Resources (Circularity)	Corporate ESG Performance	Reduction in Chemicals
✓ Reducing embodied carbon through manufacturing energy efficiency and renewable electricity sourcing ✓ Product energy efficiency ✓ Reduction of high global warming potential chemicals in manufacturing ✓ Carbon footprint analysis, reduction and transparency	✓ Recycled content in product and packaging ✓ Design for repair, reuse and recycling ✓ Product longevity and repairability ✓ Responsible end-of-life management ✓ Water use efficiency and transparency	✓ Social performance and auditing of labor, human rights and worker health and safety in the supply chain ✓ Responsible mineral sourcing ✓ Corporate reporting ✓ Social justice and equity	✓ Reduction in hazardous substances in the product ✓ Chemical substance inventory and transparency ✓ Alternatives assessment to identify safer substances ✓ Manufacturing process chemicals

What is the Timeline for the Developing Criteria for the Sustainability Impact Modules?

Sustainability Impact Module	Stakeholder Engagement	Schedule
Climate Change Mitigation	• Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria	• April 7 – May 7, 2021 • June – August 2021 • October 2021 – June 2022 • October 6 – December 6, 2021
Sustainable Use of Resources (Circularity)	• Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria	• September 13 – October 13, 2021 • December 2021 – April 2022 • April – November 2022 • April – May 2022
Reduction of Chemicals	• Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria	• November 10 – January 7, 2022 • March – May 2022 • June – December 2022 • June – July 2022
Corporate ESG Performance	• Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria	• March 14 – May 14, 2022 • Late June – September 2022 • September – April 2023 • September – October 2022
Product-Specific Criteria[1] (Product Energy Efficiency & Consumables for Imaging Equipment)	• Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria	• May – June/June – July 2022 • July – October 2022 • October 2022 – March 2023 • October – November 2022/ November – December 2022

[1] State of Sustainability Research will determine whether GEC will proceed with criteria development.

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What is the Timeline for Implementing Sustainability Impact Modules in EPEAT?

GEC plans to implement the sustainability impact criteria modules in 2 phases.

Phase 1: Simultaneous rollout of 4 sustainability impact criteria modules in mid-2023 across EPEAT product categories launched prior to 2020, including Computers and Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, Servers, and Televisions. As shown in the timeline below, GEC will provide a 12-month transition period following the launch of the new EPEAT Registry based on the sustainability impact criteria modules. During the transition period, the old criteria and the new sustainability impact criteria will be available for product conformance to EPEAT.

Phase 1	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024
Criteria Publications for Each Category	█	█	█	█	█																
EPEAT Registry Build and Training	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█												
Launch Public Registry										1-Sep											
12-month Transition from Old to New										█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
New Criteria Transition Complete																					31-Aug

Phase 2: For EPEAT product categories launched in or after 2020, modular criteria will be applied in 2024, following a similar timeline as Phase 1. Phase 2 includes Network Equipment and may include, where applicable, Photovoltaic Modules and Inverters.

About GEC

The Global Electronics Council (GEC) is a non-profit that leverages large-scale purchasing power, both public and private sector, as a demand driver for more sustainable technology. By deciding to buy sustainable technology, institutional purchasers can "move the needle" toward a more sustainable world. GEC also helps manufacturers understand the sustainability impacts of their technology, commit to address those impacts, and act to change operational, supply chain, and procurement behaviors. GEC is the manager of the ecolabel EPEAT®, used by more purchasers of electronics than any other ecolabel worldwide.

EPEAT is a comprehensive voluntary sustainability ecolabel that helps purchasers identify more sustainable electronic products that have superior environmental and social performance. EPEAT establishes criteria that address priority sustainability impacts throughout the life cycle of the product, based on an evaluation of scientific evidence and international best practices.

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