

# REVISED Implementation Plan for Updated EPEAT® Criteria

## Introduction

The Global Electronics Council® (GEC) is a non-profit that stimulates the market for sustainable electronic products and services. By deciding to prioritize the purchase of sustainable technology, institutional purchasers help “move the needle” toward a more sustainable world. GEC also enables manufacturers to demonstrate their efforts to address the sustainability impacts of their technology and act to evolve operational, supply chain, and procurement priorities.

GEC is the manager of the EPEAT ecolabel, which is used by more purchasers of electronics than any other ecolabel worldwide. 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.

GEC is undertaking a multi-year initiative to update its EPEAT Criteria to align with priority sustainability impacts of electronic products and their supply chains. GEC is doing this to ensure the criteria:

- Meet purchaser demands with an increased focus on climate change and supply chains,
- Address sustainability impacts consistently across product categories, and
- Respond to rapid changes in both technology and market trends.

The priority sustainability impact areas are Climate Change, Circularity and Sustainable Use of Resources, Chemicals of Concern, and Corporate ESG Performance. When complete, these updated criteria will be applied across all EPEAT product categories, starting with Computers and Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, Servers, and Televisions.

Through extensive stakeholder consultation, GEC has revised the implementation plan for the updated criteria for the above five product categories. This implementation plan includes the timeframe for when EPEAT registered products must meet the updated criteria and other critical activities needed for an efficient and effective transition to the updated criteria.

This document contains background information and the revised implementation plan, including the new implementation timeline.

The information in this document applies to all existing Participating Manufacturers and GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies and may also be of interest to purchasers, policy makers, investors and other EPEAT stakeholders interested in the transition to the updated EPEAT Criteria.

For questions about this implementation plan, please contact us at [EPEAT@GEC.org](mailto:EPEAT@GEC.org).

## Background

### GEC Criteria Development Process

Criteria are being revised through GEC’s Criteria Development Process, which includes expanded stakeholder engagement and a streamlined process with multiple opportunities for engagement. Each priority sustainability impact area – Climate Change, Circularity and Sustainable Use of Resources, Chemicals of Concern, and Corporate ESG Performance – is 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 are [publicly available](#) and the graphic below illustrates the steps in the process.

Development of the updated criteria is still underway, with the final set of updated criteria expected to be published no later than the end of October 2024. The most recent version of the criteria development schedule can be found on the [EPEAT Announcements Page](#).

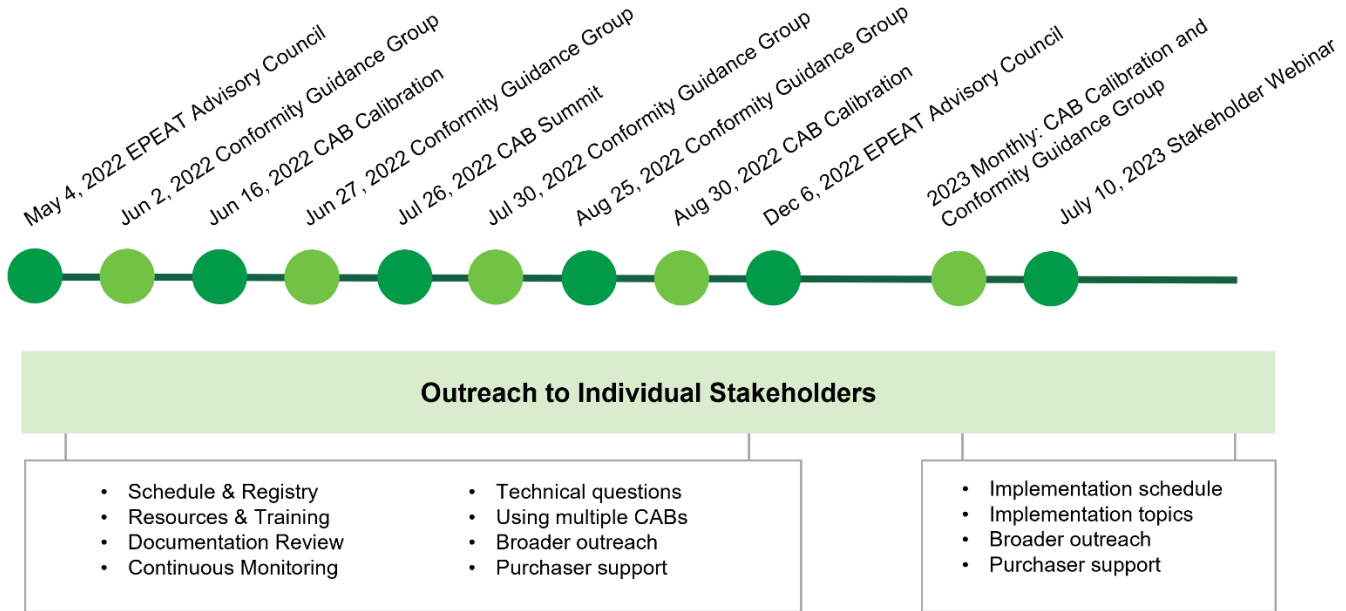


### Consultation on Implementation Plan for Updated Criteria

GEC undertook extensive stakeholder consultation throughout 2022, including outreach to Participating Manufacturers, GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs), purchasers, policy makers, and other EPEAT stakeholders. From May to July 2022, GEC sought feedback and suggestions on the original proposed implementation plan via individual calls with various stakeholders, as well as meetings with broader groups including the Conformity Guidance Group and the Advisory Council. In August 2022, GEC refined the original plan based on the preliminary feedback that had been received, and re-engaged stakeholders to solicit comments on a revised implementation plan through the remainder of 2022.

GEC continued to receive feedback on the implementation plan and timeline throughout 2023. In addition, implementation topics were addressed during monthly CAB Calibration meetings and monthly Conformity Guidance Group meetings. From June through August 2023, GEC re-engaged with key stakeholders specifically on the implementation timeline, taking into consideration modifications to the criteria development schedule.

Key consultation activities undertaken by GEC in the development of this implementation plan and the revised implementation timeline are highlighted in the graphic below.



### Considerations for Evaluating Plan Options

GEC identified basic overarching principles to guide the development of the implementation plan, to ensure that all options were examined in a balanced manner that also aligned with the EPEAT Program’s responsibilities and requirements as a Type 1 ecolabel. To this end, GEC’s decisions were guided by a commitment to being fair, objective, and transparent in the development of the plan.

It was important to GEC that the implementation plan not provide preference to a single product category, product type, or Participating Manufacturer. Perhaps just as importantly, GEC also ensured that the final plan could be implemented consistently by all CABs and Participating Manufacturers. Meeting the timeline and needs of purchasers was equally critical.

GEC relied on these basic principles to guide its decision-making process and balance a variety of competing interests in developing and revising the implementation plan in a credible, and objective way.

**Overarching Principles:**

- Credibility
- Consistency
- Objectivity
- Transparency
- Leadership

# Revised Implementation Plan

## Revised Implementation Schedule for All Updated Criteria

Key dates in the schedule for implementation of the updated EPEAT criteria are identified below. In recognition of the strong desire from all EPEAT stakeholders to have certainty and clarity on the path forward, the transition schedule presented in this document is now final.

The last set of updated criteria is expected to be published before the end of October 2024. As soon as each set of updated criteria are published, CABs and Participating Manufacturers can begin work on necessary conformity assurance activities, including Documentation Review for the updated criteria.

The public EPEAT Registry will launch on November 1, 2025 and products meeting the updated criteria from all sustainability impact areas will become visible. To balance the length of product development cycles with purchasers needs for EPEAT registered product availability, new products may also register against the prior criteria until April 1, 2026. As of December 31, 2026, all products on the EPEAT Registry must meet the updated criteria or they will be archived.

Cognizant of purchasers’ strong desire to begin procuring products that meet the updated criteria as soon as possible, and aware of the reality of product development cycles, GEC believes this implementation schedule strikes a fair balance and will ensure a successful transition to the updated EPEAT Criteria.

2024												2025												2026																													
Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4																				
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D						
				<b>E1</b>						<b>E2</b>																																											
												3 Products meeting updated criteria appear on Registry																																									
												New products can be registered against updated or prior criteria →												4																													
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\*Products not meeting updated criteria are archived. Registry will provide visibility to archived products, the version of the criteria against which they were registered, and other relevant details.

### Final Revised Schedule for Implementation of All Updated Criteria

\*Indicates firm date

<b>E1</b>	June 30, 2024	All updated criteria expected to be published (except Sustainable Use of Resources). <i>Note that each set of criteria will be publicly available upon its individual publication date.</i>
<b>E2</b>	October 31, 2024	Expected publication date of Sustainable Use of Resources criteria.
<b>3</b>	<b>November 1, 2025*</b>	<b>Public launch of EPEAT Registry where products meeting updated criteria from all impact areas are available on EPEAT Registry.</b>
<b>4</b>	April 1, 2026*	Date that new products must meet all updated criteria.
<b>5</b>	December 31, 2026*	Sunset date to archive products not meeting the updated criteria. Registry will provide visibility through alternate listing which will last past sunset date.

## EPEAT Climate+™

EPEAT Climate+ is a designation that can be earned by EPEAT registered products. EPEAT Climate+ allows Participating Manufacturers to promote their commitment to addressing climate change and reach purchasers and other stakeholders looking to do the same through procurement, investment, or other means. Instead of waiting for implementation of all updated criteria, Participating Manufacturer can show their commitment to climate change mitigation now through the EPEAT Registry.

### Key Details About Early Adopter Status:

- To achieve the EPEAT Climate+ product designation, conformance must be demonstrated with all required Climate Criteria and be verified by a Conformity Assurance Body as having done so. <sup>1</sup>
- EPEAT Climate+ can only be achieved by products.
- Participating Manufacturers are not required to have their products achieve EPEAT Climate+. However, those that do will be recognized on the EPEAT Registry as EPEAT Climate+ Champions.
- EPEAT Climate+ does not affect a product’s tier level of Bronze, Silver, or Gold. Tier levels are still based on the percentage of available optional EPEAT criteria that apply to the product type.
- Products that have achieved the EPEAT Climate+ designation will appear in the public EPEAT Registry starting September 30, 2023.
- On November 1, 2025, the updated requirements for EPEAT Climate+ designation will become effective. These new requirements will be announced in Spring 2024.

### EPEAT Climate+: Key Dates

May 16, 2023	Publication date of Climate Change Mitigation criteria.
May 16, 2023	Training and conformity resources available. Date that Participating Manufacturers began working with CABs on the required EPEAT Climate Criteria.
August 31, 2023	Manufacturers can access new back end of Registry for EPEAT Climate+ designation.
<b>September 30, 2023</b>	<b>EPEAT registered products achieving the EPEAT Climate+ designation appear in the EPEAT Registry. Participating Manufacturers with EPEAT registered products with the Climate+ designation recognized on the Registry as EPEAT Climate+ Champions.</b>
Spring 2024	Updated requirements for EPEAT Climate+ designation to be published.
November 1, 2025	Updated requirements for EPEAT Climate+ designation go into effect.

<sup>1</sup> To achieve the EPEAT Climate+ designation, a product must be EPEAT registered and meet all required EPEAT Climate Criteria. Requirements to achieve this designation may evolve over time and may require additional conformity assurance activities. In such cases, EPEAT will update this document and provide Participating Manufacturers with at least 18 months’ notice of any such changes.

## Other Critical Implementation Elements

In addition to the implementation schedule, there are many other activities that are just as important for a successful transition from a conformity assurance standpoint. Consistency, transparency, objectivity, and efficiency are key principles driving all transition elements.

### Supporting Resources

EPEAT will continue to develop conformity resources for each criterion, approximately within two months of publication of the criteria for each sustainability impact module. The actual schedule may differ based on number/complexity of criteria. These resources will be available on the back end of the EPEAT Registry. Conformity Resources for the Climate Criteria are available using an EPEAT Registry account.

### Training

An on-demand training for CAB Auditors and Participating Manufacturers will be available no later than two and a half months after publication of the criteria for each module. CAB Auditors must pass training and exams for each module to be qualified to perform Documentation Review and Continuous Monitoring activities. Training materials (presentation and recording) for the Climate Criteria are available using an EPEAT Registry account.

### Documentation Review

CAB Auditors must complete the auditor training and achieve 75% or higher on the corresponding exam to be qualified to perform documentation review activities for Participating Manufacturer clients. However, CABs can help Participating Manufacturers with questions as soon as criteria are published, before completing training.

### Continuous Monitoring

The EPEAT Program has developed the following Continuous Monitoring plan to balance the needs of all stakeholders.

2024	2025	2026
Product testing Round (Level 2) to existing criteria. Round will launch in Q1.	Product testing Round (Level 2) to existing criteria. Round will launch in Q1.	Product testing Round (Level 2) to updated criteria. Round will launch later in 2026.
Round(s) assessing publicly available information (Level 0).	Round(s) assessing publicly available information (Level 0).	Round(s) assessing publicly available information (Level 0).

The EPEAT Program will follow up on inconclusive Level 0 investigations to ensure information is available. If publicly available information cannot be found, Level 1 investigations may be initiated.

### Questions Arising During Documentation Review

EPEAT publishes a Recently Answered Questions document, which summarizes the questions received and responses provided by EPEAT the updated criteria. The document is intended to make it easier for Participating Manufacturers and CABs to learn about and easily access new information that may impact and/or facilitate

ongoing conformity assurance activities. The document is updated on Thursdays between 1 pm and 5 pm North American Pacific Time.

EPEAT will continue to hold monthly CAB Calibration Meetings with all CABs to review questions that arise during conformity assurance activities.

EPEAT has scheduled monthly Conformity Guidance Group meetings to address questions that arise on the updated criteria. The Conformity Guidance Group is open to all stakeholders including Participating Manufacturers, GEC-approved CABs, and purchasers. The Conformity Guidance Group is not a standing committee and there are no standing members. Participants may register for each meeting using the links below. Currently, each meeting is scheduled in one timeslot to bring all attendees together, however, additional timeslots may be added to a monthly meeting depending on the topic(s) to be discussed.

The schedule for the remainder of 2023 is below and the schedule for 2024 will be released by the end of 2023.

- [September 14, 2023: 7am Pacific/10am Eastern/4pm Central Europe/10pm China](#)
- [October 12, 2023: 7am Pacific/10am Eastern/4pm Central Europe /10pm China](#)
- [November 16, 2023: 7am Pacific/10am Eastern/4pm Central Europe /11pm China](#)
- [December 14, 2023: 7am Pacific/10am Eastern/4pm Central Europe /11pm China](#)

#### Manufacturers Using More than One CAB

Participating Manufacturers may choose to use different CABs for different categories, and product registration and product listings on the EPEAT Registry will remain by product category. Except for consumables, product energy efficiency, and some criteria with small differences in language and/or requirements for different product types, criteria will be identical across the Computers and Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, Servers, and Televisions product categories. Corporation level criteria are criteria where evidence is required to cover all of these product categories which the manufacturer has EPEAT-registered products.

If a Participating Manufacturer uses different CABs for different product categories, they may choose one of the following options:

- 1) Participating Manufacturer selects a single CAB which will complete Documentation Review of all corporation level criteria. All Continuous Monitoring investigations for the corporation level criteria will be implemented by this CAB.
- 2) Participating Manufacturer has both CABs complete Documentation Review of the corporation level criteria. Continuous Monitoring investigations will be implemented on a product category basis by the CAB for the product category.