

# Final Implementation Plan for Updated EPEAT® Criteria

## Introduction

The Global Electronics Council® (GEC) is a non-profit that accelerates the transformation of markets for sustainable electronic technology 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 nearing completion of its ambitious multi-year initiative to update 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, Circularity, Chemicals of Concern, and Responsible Supply Chains. When complete, these updated criteria will be applied across EPEAT ICT product categories, starting with Computers and Displays, Imaging Equipment, Mobile Phones, Servers, and Televisions. In addition, the Consumable Criteria will be applied to the Imaging Equipment product category only.

Through stakeholder feedback and engagement in 2024, 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.

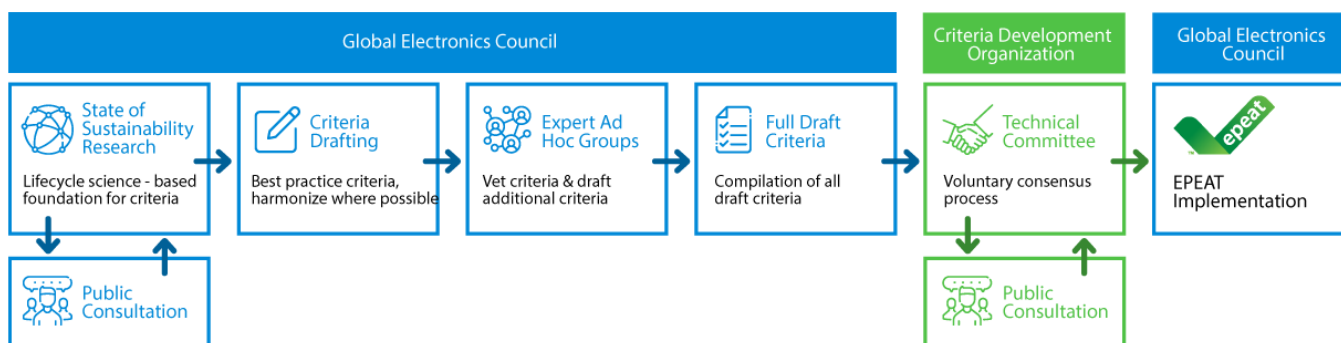
This document contains background information and the revised implementation plan and timeline. This applies to all existing Participating Manufacturers and GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs) and may also be of interest to purchasers, policy makers, investors and other EPEAT stakeholders 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

EPEAT 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, Circularity, Chemicals of Concern, and Responsible Supply Chains – 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. This also applies to the Imaging Equipment Consumable Criteria. The policies governing GEC’s Criteria Development Process are [publicly available](#) and the graphic below illustrates the steps in the process.



## Considerations for Implementation Plan

GEC relied on overarching principles to guide its decision-making process and balance a variety of competing interests to develop and revise the implementation plan in a credible and objective way. All options were examined in a manner that aligned with EPEAT’s responsibilities and requirements as a Type 1 ecolabel. GEC’s decisions were guided by a commitment to being fair, objective, and transparent.

As such, the plan does not provide preference to a single product category, product type, or Participating Manufacturer. As importantly, the plan enables consistent implementation by all CABs and Participating Manufacturers. Meeting the timeline and needs of purchasers is equally critical.

Overarching Principles
Credibility
Consistency
Objectivity
Transparency
Leadership

## Consultation for Implementation Plan

Numerous rounds of stakeholder consultation informed development of the final implementation plan.

Throughout 2022, GEC undertook extensive stakeholder consultation, including outreach to Participating Manufacturers, CABs, purchasers, policy makers, and other stakeholders. GEC also sought feedback and suggestions via individual calls with various stakeholders, as well as meetings with broader groups including the Conformity Guidance Group and the Advisory Council. GEC refined the original plan based on the preliminary





## Other Critical Implementation Elements

In addition to the implementation timeline, 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 finalized criterion, with a goal of release as close as possible to finalization of the criteria and no later than two months after publication of the criteria for each sustainability impact module. The actual schedule may differ based on the number and/or the complexity of criteria. These resources will be available on the back end of the EPEAT Registry. Conformity Resources for the Climate Criteria are currently available using an EPEAT Registry account.

### Training

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

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

2025	2026
Product testing Round (Level 2) to existing criteria. Round will launch in Q1 2025.	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).

EPEAT 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 available using a Registry account and continues to be 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.

In 2025, EPEAT will continue to schedule 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. The 2025 schedule will be made available in January 2025 and meeting will occur more frequently than monthly. Participants will need to register for each meeting, using the links that will be provided in the 2025 schedule.

## 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 may select a single CAB to 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 may have each CAB to complete Documentation Review of all corporation level criteria. Continuous Monitoring investigations will be implemented on a product category basis by the CAB for the product category.