

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 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 practice module is also provided below.

Steps in GEC’s Criteria Development Process



Table 1: Stakeholder Participation Options

Participation Option	What Is Expected?	How to Get Involved
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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 and adopt best practices that achieve</p>	<p>Each Technical Committee is expected to convene for 7 months. Technical Committee meetings will occur monthly via teleconference. 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.</p>	<p>Membership on the Technical Committee is open to all interested parties by submitting the Technical Committee Application Form.</p> <p>GEC is partnering with NSF International, an organization with extensive expertise in managing voluntary consensus processes, to convene and manage the Technical Committee.</p>

<p>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.</p>		
<p>Public Comment on Draft Criteria. The full draft of criteria for each sustainability impact module are available for public comment.</p>	<p>Interested stakeholders can submit public comments on the draft criteria. The public comment period is open for 60 days.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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</p>

What Topics Will Be Covered in Each Sustainability Impact Module?

Climate Change Mitigation	Sustainable Use of Resources (Circularity)	Corporate ESG Performance	Reduction in Chemicals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 Sustainability Impact Modules?

Sustainability Impact Module	Stakeholder Engagement	Anticipated Schedule
Climate Change Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2021 • June – August 2021 • September 2021 - March 2022 • September 2021
Sustainable Use of Resources (Circularity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2021 • Nov 2021 – February 2022 • March - Sept 2022 • February 2022
Reduction of Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2021 • Dec 2021 – March 2022 • April – September 2022 • March 2022
Corporate ESG Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment on State of Sustainability Research • Expert Ad Hoc Groups • Technical Committee • Public comment on draft criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2021 • March – June 2022 • June - December 2022 • June 2022

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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