



GLOBAL  
ELECTRONICS  
COUNCIL

*Sustainability for a Connected Future*



# WIPRO AND EPEAT

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Case Study





## Highlights

- *Wipro is the first institutional purchaser headquartered in India to receive recognition for sustainable IT procurement leadership as an EPEAT Purchaser Award winner*
- *Purchasing EPEAT-registered products will generate \$4,875,789 in lifetime cost savings for the products purchased between 2016 and 2019*
- *Since adoption of EPEAT requirements, Wipro has reduced 19,438 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and 128 metric tons of hazardous waste.*

## Introduction

Wipro Limited is a globally-recognized information technology, consulting and business process services leader headquartered in India. Its 160,000 employees work with 1,274 clients in 66+ countries across six continents to generate annual revenue of \$8.5bn. The scale of WIPRO's operations necessitates the "Central Procurement Organization - CPO" to manage a spend of \$2.3 billion annually of which IT Spend alone is \$500 million annually in 54 countries. In addition to using EPEAT for internal organizational procurement, WIPRO spends \$46 million on EPEAT-registered computers and displays on behalf of their customers worldwide.

WIPRO purchases EPEAT-registered electronics in four categories – computers and displays, office imaging equipment, mobile phones, and servers – with plans to purchase EPEAT-registered network equipment and photovoltaic modules when those categories become available under the EPEAT ecolabel.

Wipro takes the view that as a large corporation they must act as a socioeconomic citizen, aligning their objectives with society's goals and using their significant power to influence social issues. Their recently rearticulated values include 'Treat each person with respect', 'Be global and responsible' and 'Unyielding integrity in everything we do', which underscore the basic tenets of social responsibility and corporate citizenship. As an IT services company, incorporating sustainable practices into their IT procurement activities helps Wipro to demonstrate their sustainability leadership to their stakeholders across the board.

## EPEAT Adoption

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Wipro has a long-standing commitment to sustainability, which has earned the organization several global recognitions over the years:

- Wipro is one of the few companies globally to incorporate the principles of Integrated Reporting (IR) in their annual financial report. Designed by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), the framework requires companies to integrate six capitals (Financial, Human, Intellectual, Environmental, Social and Manufacturing) in their annual reports.
  - Wipro has been the first company headquartered in India, and also the only IT services company in the world to secure an EPEAT Purchaser Award for leadership in sustainable IT Procurement.
  - Wipro has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) World seven times in a row. For the year 2016- 17, the organization was also acknowledged for its global leadership in the software and services industry with the Robeco Silver Class Sustainability Award.
  - Wipro has been consistently ranked in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) globally, placing at the top in the India rankings.
  - Wipro is a member of the Financial Times FTSE4GOOD Index that recognizes global leaders in ESG parameters.
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*“Green supply chain should be a key plank of sustainability programs for large businesses and organizations – considering that a significant part of the environmental footprint is outside the org boundary and with suppliers. In this context Wipro’s dedicated focus on driving Green IT procurement is an achievement we should be proud of. Criteria like EPEAT from the Green Electronics Council integrate diverse aspects like energy efficiency, material recyclability, modular design, no toxic and conflict minerals. Over the past few years, we have driven EPEAT compliance with our IT product suppliers – laptops, desktops, servers and printers covering procurement of 180,527 assets over the last 4 years. Managed services for IT requirements, like printing, is another way to integrate product responsibility in the IT industry.”*

Dinni Lingaraj, Senior Manager-Wipro Foundation & Sustainability Advocate-Wipro Ltd

While the EPEAT ecolabel was launched in 2006, registration and product availability in India wasn't enabled until 2014. As a large IT services company with headquarters in India, and as an established leader in sustainable business practices, Wipro was quick to evaluate whether use of EPEAT could make their IT purchases more sustainable. When considering use of EPEAT, their procurement team consulted with both their suppliers and the Green Electronics Council. GEC was able to provide the live EPEAT Registry of available sustainable laptops, desktops, printers, mobile phones, servers, and their respective manufacturers. On the supply side, Wipro conducted listening sessions with their IT hardware OEM partners to communicate Wipro's desired EPEAT initiative and understand their EPEAT-registered product offerings. They then conducted a spend analysis to identify the volume and spend for ICT hardware, including both EPEAT-registered and unregistered products in order to highlight where product changes would have to be made.

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## Wipro adopted use of the EPEAT ecolabel in 2016 for IT hardware procurement – across commodities such as laptops, desktops, printers, mobile phones and servers, as part of their Green IT Procurement Initiative, and took the following steps:

- **Procurement Policy Update:** As a first step, Wipro made changes in their Corporate Procurement Policy for ICT Hardware Procurement, which covers all buyers and business teams handling ICT procurement across the organization, to require use of EPEAT.
- **RFP Template Compliance:** Wipro also made use of EPEAT as part of their RFP template for ICT Hardware Procurement and enabled it in their Ariba Sourcing Engine so that all IT Bids reflect EPEAT-registered products.
- **Purchase Order and Contract Terms & Conditions Upgrade:** Wipro added EPEAT in all system-generated Purchase Orders so that all purchase orders issued for ICT hardware procurement are for EPEAT-registered products.



Social Responsibility and Protection of Environment: Seller shall comply with the applicable statutory provisions governing the treatment of employees, environmental protection, health and safety at work, to work on reducing the adverse effects of its activities on human beings and the environment. In this regard, Supplier shall set-up and further develops a management system in accordance with the standards specified in ISO 14001 to its fullest ability. Specifically, for ICT hardware, we encourage products and models which meet Wipro's green criteria based on IEEE 1680 (also called EPEAT) requirements.

Wipro's Purchase Order Terms & Conditions

*“Wipro has been a flag bearer in the IT industry for Sustainable Procurement initiatives. Wipro has been committed to sustainability initiatives in every aspect of its operations and have been a leader. Our commitment to sustainability, both as a business entity and as a corporate citizen, has earned us several global recognitions over the years. EPEAT recognition for our Green ICT hardware procurement initiative is one of the showcase testimonies of our contribution to society for Environment friendly IT Procurement. We have started this journey from year 2016 onwards with One Star rating and have proudly been recognized with 4 Star Rating in 2019. We are proud to be the only IT company having been recognized for our Sustainable Procurement model by Green Electronics Council and we are committed to sustain our efforts for Green Procurement in years to come.”*

Muralidharan. S,VP & Chief Procurement Officer, Wipro Ltd

## How EPEAT Addresses Common Procurement Concerns: Product Availability and Brand Diversity

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After conducting their initial spend analysis in 2016, Wipro was able to purchase EPEAT-registered computers and displays. Aided by the growth of EPEAT-registered product availability internationally, Wipro today also purchases EPEAT-registered printers, mobile phones, and servers. By communicating with their suppliers and including EPEAT in both RFPs and procurement terms & conditions, Wipro is able to ensure that the brands who wish to sell products to them, include EPEAT in their product offerings.

## Sustainability Benefits

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Use of EPEAT has helped Wipro maintain their status as sustainability leaders. Subsequent to requiring EPEAT registration for their computer and display procurements in 2016, Wipro was quick to adopt use of the ecolabel for other product categories. In 2017, the year EPEAT launched a category for mobile phones, Wipro added EPEAT requirements for both mobile phones and imaging equipment. At the launch of the EPEAT category for servers in 2018, Wipro added that category to their procurements as well. The company also plans to add sustainability requirements for their photovoltaic module and network equipment purchases when GEC launches EPEAT registration for those categories in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

For their efforts, Wipro has been honored with multiple awards from the Green Electronics Council – a One Star EPEAT Purchaser Award in 2017, a Three Star EPEAT Purchaser Award in 2018, and a Four Star EPEAT Purchaser Award in 2019 – in recognition of their leadership in sustainable IT procurement. GEC also invited Wipro to represent India and institutional purchasers in India in a panel presentation to the EPEAT Advisory Council in May of 2019. Other panelists included representatives from the United Nations Environmental Programme and the United States General Services Administration.

The EPEAT Benefits Calculator also demonstrates the significant environmental and cost benefits of Wipro's procurement of EPEAT-registered products, as opposed to those that do not meet EPEAT criteria. In fact, for the EPEAT-registered purchases made by the organization between 2016 and 2019, Wipro will generate nearly \$5 million in lifetime cost savings, derived from the energy efficiency of the products.

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Environmental Impact	Savings	Equivalent
Greenhouse Gas	19,438 metric tons	Like taking 4,126 average US cars off the road for a year
Energy	49,212 MWh	Enough to power 4,051 average US households for a year
Primary Materials	15,103 metric tons	Equal to the weight of 2,905 elephants
Hazardous Waste	129 metric tons	Equal to the weight of 1,062 refrigerators
Solid Waste	463 metric tons	Equal to the waste generated by 249 average US households for a year
Water Emissions	73 metric tons	
Air Emissions	29,575 metric tons	

For more information about EPEAT, please contact the Global Electronic Council's Purchaser Resources Team at [PurchaserResources@globalelectronicscouncil.org](mailto:PurchaserResources@globalelectronicscouncil.org) or Lalit Pandey, Wipro, Limited, at [lalit.pandey@wipro.com](mailto:lalit.pandey@wipro.com).