If you cannot determine if an item is energy efficient or environmentally friendly, contact the Energy, Environmental and Transportation Division for assistance at gogreen@doc.gov.

Electronic Stewardship is Everyone’s Responsibility!

Additional information is available on the following websites.

www.epa.gov
www.fedcenter.gov/programs/en13423/
www.federelectronicchallenge.net
www.greenelectronicscouncil.org
www.ofee.gov

Where can I Learn More?

Visit us on the web
www.osoc.doc.gov/oas/environmental
or contact us at gogreen@doc.gov
What is Electronic Stewardship?

Electronic Stewardship (ES) seeks to reduce the environmental and energy impacts of electronic equipment throughout the product’s life-cycle. Executive Order (EO) 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, sets forth tangible requirements the Federal agencies must meet regarding ES:

- Develop an ES program that allows for the tracking and annual reporting of their electronic purchases through the acquisition, operations and maintenance, and end-of-life life-cycle phases;
- Enable Energy Star features on 100% of agency computers and monitors;
- Acquire computers and monitors that are EPEAT-registered 95% of the time;
- Extend the useful life of electronic equipment to 4 years, or more; and
- Join the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC).

Electronics are determined to be “green” when they meet the standards set forth by EPEAT and Energy Star®.

EPEAT

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, or EPEAT, is a procurement tool designed to help evaluate, compare, and select electronic products based on their environmental qualities. These qualities are ranked on a gold, silver, and bronze scale. Before making a purchase of electronic equipment, check the EPEAT website (www.epeat.net) to ensure the product is EPEAT compliant.

Currently, EPEAT standards exist for:
- Desktops,
- Laptops,
- Monitors,
- Integrated desktop computers, and Workstations.

EPEAT standards are in development for:
- Printers,
- Fax machines,
- Copiers, and
- Televisions.

Why is it important to practice good electronic stewardship?

Electronic equipment can contain lead, chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc, and brominated flame retardants. Electronic equipment that is EPEAT-registered has less of these components than non EPEAT-registered equipment. When electronics are not disposed of or recycled properly, these hazardous chemicals present problems in the environment and materials management.

Additionally, as the world’s largest purchaser of electronic products and services, the Federal government has an opportunity, and a responsibility, to provide leadership in environmentally sound practices and cost-effective, life-cycle management of our electronic assets.

How can you help?

If you purchase electronic equipment, you can help DOC achieve its goals by:

- Encouraging your office or Operating Unit to formally join the FEC.
- Replacing computer equipment only after its useful life has been achieved, or after 4 years of use, whichever comes second. Purchasing extended warranties ensures a 4 year lifespan is attained.
- Purchasing only EPEAT-registered computers and monitors that meet the specifications of your CIO’s office.
- Purchasing Energy Star® electronic equipment.
- Determining if infrequently used equipment can be shared between offices.