



COA Information Technology Purchasing Guidelines

Information Technology (IT) officers at College of the Atlantic consider the procurement of environmentally friendly IT products to be intrinsic to the spirit of our campus and community, and fundamental to environmental sustainability.

In support of COA's mandate to reduce our environmental impact, and in support of a consumer-driven transition to a low-carbon economy, the IT department actively pursues EPEAT Gold and Energy Star certified IT products and services. EPEAT is a free and trusted source of environmental product ratings that makes it easy to select high-performance electronics that support organizations' IT and sustainability goals. Managed by the Green Electronics Council, EPEAT currently tracks more than 4,400 products from more than 60 manufacturers across 43 countries.

IT staff involved with purchasing products and services are very experienced in navigating the marketplace and choosing as many high-performing items as possible, as is evident from the number of EPEAT Gold standard purchases each year.

When making IT purchases, the following guidelines are considered:

1. Before purchasing new equipment, IT purchasing staff will inquire as to the level of necessity to ensure the institution is not purchasing more than it really needs.
2. Whenever possible, and where budgetary constraints allow, IT purchasing staff will acquire EPEAT Gold, or otherwise highly energy efficient equipment such as Energy Star certified CPUs.
3. If EPEAT Gold is unavailable, EPEAT silver equipment may be acquired.