

October 12, 2018

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Green Electronics Council (GEC), it is my honor and pleasure to confirm that GEC reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. **This letter serves as our Communication on Engagement for January 2017 thru December 2017.**

Below I describe the actions that the Green Electronics Council has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles, particularly Principle 4, which undertake elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor, Principle 8, which promotes greater environmental responsibility and Principle 9, which promotes diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The Green Electronics Council is a mission driven non-profit headquartered in the United States. Our vision is a world in which only sustainable Information Technology (IT) products are designed, manufactured, and purchased.

In 2017, GEC released the “Purchaser Guide for Addressing Labor Human Rights Impacts in IT Procurements,” which speaks to GEC’s commitment to leveraging institutional purchaser spend to address the continuing issue of forced and compulsory labor in the IT supply chain. GEC released this guide in 2017 to assist institutional purchasers looking to procure IT products from companies that are improving social responsibility across their supply chain. The Guide, developed with input from manufacturers and purchasers of IT products, provides purchasers with questions they can use throughout the procurement process, as well as examples of supplier supporting documentation. The Guide helps purchasers better understand the IT sector’s capacity to address labor and human rights and empowers them to utilize their procurements to promote the manufacture and assembly of socially responsible IT products. The GEC “Purchaser Guide Addressing Labor Human Rights Impacts in IT Procurements” guidance is available for free on the GEC website.

**Through the development and release of the “Purchaser Guide for Addressing Labor Human Rights Impacts in IT Procurements”, GEC shows our commitment to Principle 4, which undertake elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor.**

GEC is well known for our flagship program, EPEAT, which is the leading global type-1 ecolabel for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products. EPEAT provides a free and credible way for institutional purchasers to select from a wide variety of high-performance ICT products which meet credible criteria for environmental and social sustainability. National governments, including the United States, and thousands of private and public institutional purchasers around the world use EPEAT as part of their sustainable procurement decisions.

The online EPEAT Registry contains more than 4300 products from more than 65 manufacturers across 5 broad product categories. Product categories include PCs and Displays, Imaging Equipment, Televisions, Mobile Phones and Servers. Products may be registered at one of three levels, which are based on their ability to meet certain required and optional criteria within the product standards. Bronze registered products meet all required criteria in the standards, Silver registered products meet all required criteria and at least 50% of optional criteria, and Gold registered products meeting all required criteria and at least 75% of optional criteria.

In 2017, GEC launched the Mobile Phone category under EPEAT. The number of mobile phone users is forecast to reach 4.68 billion in 2019. 85% of smart phone emissions impact comes from the production phase, especially to produce the chip and the motherboard. Additionally, any hazardous substances present are not

likely to be released during their regular use, however, they may pose hazards during landfill disposal, or destructive end-of-life processes such as shredding operations. The criteria for the EPEAT Mobile Phone category address six primary environmental and social impact areas:

1. Materials: Restrictions on hazardous substances; use of recycled materials; safer substitutions
2. Energy Use: Efficient battery charging system
3. End of Life Management and Extension of Useful Life: Take back programs; use of responsible recyclers; ease of disassembly; repair and refurbishment; spare parts
4. Packaging: Use of fiber-based materials; separable plastics; recycled packaging; restrictions on hazardous substances in packaging
5. Manufacturing and Operations: Supplier responsibility; conflict minerals, F-GHG emission reduction
6. Corporate Practices: Corporate sustainability reporting; Life cycle assessment

Brands such as Apple, LG and Samsung are meeting the EPEAT Mobile Phone criteria and making more sustainable mobile phones available for the billions of people using them.

**By launching the EPEAT Mobile Phone category in 2017, GEC shows its support for Principle 9, which promotes diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.**

In 2017, GEC developed several purchaser focused guidance documents, freely available, to facilitate the procurement of sustainable ICT products. One guidance document highlights how purchasers of EPEAT-Registered IT products can strengthen their responses when disclosing to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). This is the first time that GRI lent its direct endorsement for the use of an Ecolabel in supporting its corporate sustainability reporting. In response to the release of this guidance, GRI's leadership issued the following statement:

"At GRI, we support the work being done by the Green Electronics Council and hope that even more products and manufactures will be tracked by EPEAT in the future. The GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards create a global common language for corporate sustainability data. As such, we welcome the guidance [created by GEC], which lays out how companies can reference EPEAT in their GRI reporting. Efforts like this are so important, as they increase harmonization within the realm of corporate reporting and help reduce the reporting burden on companies."

GEC also developed a purchaser focused guidance document in partnership with CDP that highlights how purchasers of EPEAT-Registered IT products can use their purchases as part of CDP's 2017 Climate Change Questionnaire (CCQ). The collaboratively developed guide addressed the use of EPEAT purchasing data to answer a number of qualitative and quantitative questions. The guidance relevant to the 2017 CCQ was revised to apply to CDP's 2018 update to the CCQ. The 2017, and 2018 version, of the guidance is available for free on the GEC website.

**By developing the GRI and CDP EPEAT Purchaser guidance documents, GEC is highlighting how it supports Principle 8, which promotes greater environmental responsibility.**

Again, it is my honor and pleasure to confirm that the Green Electronics Council reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption.



Nancy Gillis, Chief Executive Officer  
Green Electronics Council