

GREEN CORNER

New Option to Register Manufacturer Parts Numbers in the EPEAT Registry

When Federal agencies purchase computers, laptops, and monitors, they are required to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-registered products. These are products that manufacturers or vendors certify meet the IEEE 1680.1 standard for environmental and energy attributes.

EPEAT has been providing registry information to GSA for inclusion in *Advantage!*, but we are having problems matching up the EPEAT information with the *Advantage!* product information. Now, in response to requests from GSA, major retailers, and other organizations to more clearly communicate which specific configurations of products registered in EPEAT conform to the IEEE 1680.1 standard, the managers of the EPEAT database have added three optional fields in which manufacturers can enter the manufacturer part number or UPC or EAN numbers of conforming configurations.

With individual product ID, manufacturers can precisely identify, and purchasers can easily see, whether specific configurations are conformant with a given model's EPEAT product declaration. And individual product ID enables end users of all types to automate processes to easily match products to their appropriate EPEAT tier in catalogs and upon delivery.

Providing these data is voluntary, since it is not required by the IEEE 1680.1 standard that governs EPEAT – and manufacturers may choose how much data they wish to enter (i.e., only the top selling product SKUs vs. all SKUs vs. some other approach). However, GSA encourages all GSA suppliers to enter the information or ask manufacturers to enter the information. This will enable GSA to correctly identify EPEAT-registered products using the EPEAT icon in *Advantage!* and make it easier for federal agencies to purchase these products.