

Electronic Waste (e-Waste) Terms and Definitions Certification and Standards

- **Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT):** A procurement tool to help large volume purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare, and select desktop computers, notebooks, and monitors based on their environmental attributes. EPEAT also provides a clear and consistent set of performance criteria for the design of products and provides an opportunity for manufacturers to secure market recognition for efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their products. (See <http://www.epeat.net/>).
- **Energy Star:** A program created by the US EPA and the Department of Energy, which provides a certification for electronic products that use less energy, providing reduced carbon emissions, energy use, and utility bills. According to the Energy Star website, Americans who used Energy Star appliances saved nearly \$17 million and avoided greenhouse emissions equivalent to 30 million cars. (See <http://www.energystar.gov/> for more information)
- **eStewards:** A Basel Action Network (BAN)-sponsored electronics certification for e-waste management. BAN is an independent, charitable organization with NO direct ties to the Basel Convention. It promotes the ratification of the Basel Convention and the ratification of the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention and promotes e-Stewards as the ONLY way to manage e-waste. The certification is given to electronics recyclers who do not send electronic components to landfills or incinerators, who do not export electronic waste to other countries, and who do not send old electronics for refurbishment in prisons. In order to obtain and maintain one's e-Stewards certification, a recycler must have third-party verification of their compliance with the standards' guidelines. The eStewards Initiative focuses only on the toxicity within a product rather than a complete life cycle of a product. (<http://www.e-stewards.org/>)
- **Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI):** This initiative works on worldwide standards for refurbishment and recovery of cell phones. It is carried out under the Basel Convention - a convention signed by a number of countries to stop the trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste, which includes electronic waste, in an effort to protect human health and the environment. (More information available at <http://www.informinc.org/mppi.pdf>)
- **R2 (Responsible Recycling):** R2 certification provides guidelines to assess recyclers' health and safety standards, which includes employee safety and health, environmental protection and security measures. The standard applies to all who reclaim electronic parts through recycling and refurbishing of computers and other electronic components. The certification standard was developed through a multi-stakeholder process. Recyclers' R2 participation is not mandatory by law, but it is a recommended practice which can be advertised to consumers once a recycler is R2-



certified. R2 is sponsored through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (The complete R2 standard can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/materials/ecycling/r2practices.htm>)

Additional Terms and Definitions

SEI TN - 001 [Electronic Waste \(e-Waste\) Terms and Definitions: General Terms](#) -- Champaign, IL: Illinois Sustainable Technology Center - Sustainable Electronics Initiative, 2010.

SEI TN - 002 [Electronic Waste \(e-Waste\) Terms and Definitions: Legislation and Directives](#) -- Champaign, IL: Illinois Sustainable Technology Center - Sustainable Electronics Initiative, 2010.

SEI TN - 003 [Electronic Waste \(e-Waste\) Terms and Definitions: Organizations and Certifying Bodies](#) -- Champaign, IL: Illinois Sustainable Technology Center - Sustainable Electronics Initiative, 2010.

