

EPEAT Program

Continuous Monitoring Round Plan



Photovoltaic Modules and Inverters
PV-2022-01
January 31, 2022

Background

EPEAT® is a comprehensive voluntary sustainability Type 1 ecolabel that helps purchasers identify sustainable technology products and services. Central to EPEAT are conformity assurance activities that meet the technical rigor and credibility needs of the institutional purchasers who rely upon EPEAT. The EPEAT Program ensures the ongoing conformance of EPEAT-registered products through an ongoing surveillance process known as Continuous Monitoring. Continuous Monitoring activities occur throughout the year and test the ability of Participating Manufacturers to prove conformance with EPEAT Criteria on an ongoing basis.

Some Continuous Monitoring activities require that Investigations be conducted in discrete timeframes called Rounds. The EPEAT Program develops an individual plan for each Continuous Monitoring Round, which specifies the EPEAT Criteria to be investigated, the method of investigation that GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs) must use and the specific dates when the Investigation activities must be completed. The EPEAT Program also selects the Participating Manufacturers and EPEAT-registered products and assigns Investigations to CABs, which must fully participate in and are responsible for implementing Continuous Monitoring Round activities with their Participating Manufacturer clients. Participating Manufacturers are required to cooperate fully with their GEC-approved CAB during Round activities.

This document contains the individual plan for Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01.

Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01 Investigation Activities

Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01 will use documentation review to determine the conformance of products with specific EPEAT Criteria. The EPEAT Program assigns specific products and EPEAT Criteria for evaluation to GEC-approved CABs. Participating Manufacturers have a discrete time period in which they must provide evidence that supports conformance with the selected criteria. GEC-approved CABs review the documentation, make recommendations on conformity based solely on the evidence provided by Participating Manufacturers, and send Investigation Reports to the EPEAT Program, which makes the final decisions on conformity.

Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01 Criteria and Product Selection

Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01 will focus on climate change. Climate change is creating irreversible damage to the planet and threatening conditions for all life on earth—extreme temperatures and weather conditions, rising sea levels, melting ice caps, and loss of biodiversity have already been documented as a result of climate change. The primary contributor to climate change is the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation and other energy needs. The majority of greenhouse gas emissions from the electronics industry are often attributed to the supply chain, which includes raw materials mining, manufacture, and assembly of electronic components, as well as transportation of the finished product. Additionally, the electricity consumed to power electronic products contributes

significantly to climate change as well. As a result, GEC selected Criteria which address these issues for investigation in this Round.

Overview of Criteria and Products Selected	
Product Category	Photovoltaic Modules and Inverters
Number of Products Selected	1
Criteria Selected	5.2.5—Avoidance or reduction of high global warming potential (GWP) gas emissions 11.2.2—Reporting on additional key performance indicators

Continuous Monitoring Round PV-2022-01 Schedule

Phase of Round	Date
Preparation Phase	
CABs notified of Round schedule and activities by EPEAT	January 24, 2022
CABs receive Round assignments and materials from EPEAT	January 31, 2022
Week of Round Training for CABs	Week of February 14
Investigation Phase (CABs performing investigations)	
Investigative period begins	February 21, 2022
Investigative period ends	April 22, 2022
Deadline for CAB submission of Investigation Reports to EPEAT	May 6, 2022
Deliberation Phase (EPEAT making conformity decisions)	
Deliberation period begins	May 7, 2022
CABs receive Investigation Reports with final conformity decisions from EPEAT	June 6, 2022
Corrective Action Phase (Participating Manufacturers restoring accuracy of EPEAT Registry)	
Corrective action period begins	June 13, 2022
Corrective action period ends	July 13, 2022
Deadline for CAB submission of corrective action reports to EPEAT	July 27, 2022
CABs receive final Investigation Reports with correction decisions from EPEAT	August 10, 2022
Reporting Phase	
Outcomes Report published	August 17, 2022

Process Details – Continuous Monitoring Using Documentation Review

Continuous Monitoring Rounds that use documentation review activities are conducted in accordance with EPEAT Policy Manual (P65) and EPEAT Conformity Assurance Implementation Manual (also called EPEAT Requirements of CABs and Conformity Assurance Procedures) (P66) in effect at the time of the Round.

- The EPEAT Program downloads a list of all active EPEAT-registered products, select products from the list for investigation and assigns EPEAT Criteria to products, as per the Round Plan.

- GEC-approved CABs receive the list of products and EPEAT Criteria selected for their Participating Manufacturer clients but do not yet notify the Participating Manufacturers of the imminent investigations.
- The EPEAT Program publishes the Round Plan on the start date of the Round.
- On the start date of the Round, GEC-approved CABs notify the Participating Manufacturers that their products have been selected for investigation and begin the evidence collection process.
- Participating Manufacturers have a discrete time period in which they must provide evidence that supports conformance with the selected criteria.
- GEC-approved CABs review the documentation, make recommendations on conformity based solely on the evidence provided by Participating Manufacturers, and prepare an Investigation Report for each product.
- GEC-approved CABs submit the Investigation Reports to the EPEAT Program. At the same time, CABs forward these same Reports to the Participating Manufacturers.
- The EPEAT Program reviews Investigation Reports and makes the final decisions on conformity. The EPEAT Program then sends the Investigation Reports back to the GEC-approved CABs.
- GEC-approved CABs send the Investigation Reports with the final decision on conformity to the Participating Manufacturers.
- For decisions of nonconformance, Participating Manufacturers must make corrections within 30 calendar days to restore the accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.
- The EPEAT Program publishes an Outcomes Report identifying the nonconforming products and Participating Manufacturers, as well as the actions taken to restore accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.

<i>Document Control and Change History</i>						
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Revision</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Approver</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Approval Date</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
1	0	Senior Manager, Ecolabels and Resources	Director, EPEAT Program	Initial release	2020 Aug 20	2020 Aug 23
1	1	Senior Manager, Ecolabels and Resources	Senior Director, Ecolabels and Manufacturer Resources	Updates throughout to match revisions to P66. Addition of Preparation Phase to schedule table.	2021 Feb 22	2021 Feb 26