

## Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) – Purchasing Environmentally Responsible Computers

**Environmental and Human Health Impact:** Vast reduction in use of toxic materials (lead, cadmium, and mercury) and energy; increased use of recycled resins, recycled content packaging, and reusable packaging.

**Business Impact:** Up-front purchase of computer systems is cost neutral with energy cost savings of \$4 million per year.

### Challenge

Computers have enabled Kaiser Permanente to provide our members, patients, and physicians with real-time access to electronic medical information which has expedited and simplified delivery of care. But the manufacture, use, and disposal of computers and their electronic accessories have a global adverse impact on human and environmental health. Recognizing the benefits and problems with electronics, Kaiser Permanente was looking for a way to identify more environmentally responsible computer systems. The contract with a new computer system supplier in early 2006 included language specifying a strong and definite preference for energy efficient and environmentally responsible computers.

### Aim/Goal

- To procure CPUs, monitors, and laptops that are manufactured with least toxic materials, designed for easy recycling, use minimal energy for operation, and are packaged with minimal material.
- To reduce KP's energy consumption and costs.

### Team

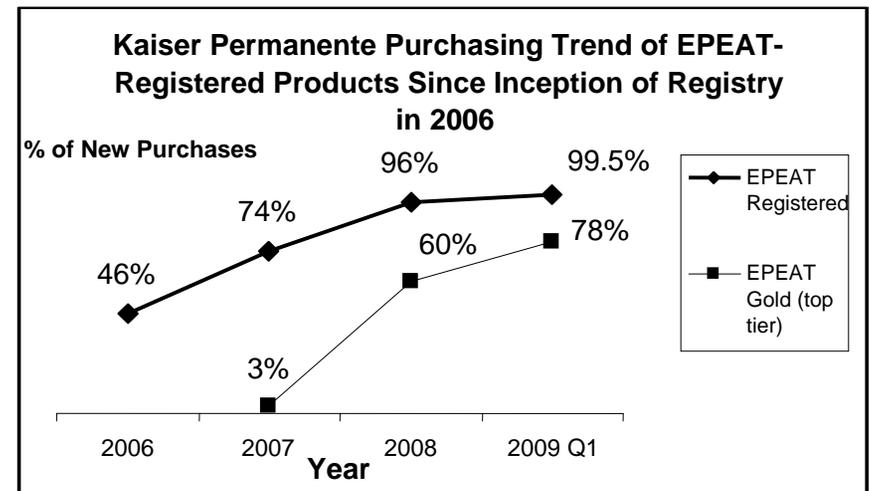
IT Procurement Sourcing Team  
Pradeep Saxena, Sourcing Director, IT

### Actions Taken

- ✓ In 2006, the EPEAT criteria and registry system that enabled an easy comparison of the environmental performance of computer systems was launched.
- ✓ Prior to EPEAT, Kaiser Permanente utilized the EnergyStar® rating system as a minimum requirement for new computer systems. However, Procurement & Supply's IT sourcing team quickly adopted EPEAT due to its comprehensive focus on environmental issues, which includes energy performance.
- ✓ Expectations were set with the incumbent supplier that as new products meeting higher registry tiers became available Kaiser Permanente would experience swift adoption of those models into our purchasing standards.

**For More Information Contact:** Environmental-Supply-Chain@kp.org

### Results



### Lessons Learned

- ✓ The use of a reputable and verifiable third-party certification tool can simplify the purchasing of environmentally preferable products.
- ✓ A certification system, like EPEAT, that compares supplier performance in a transparent and balanced fashion can help prevent price mark-ups and “green washing” (disingenuous promotion or advertising of product environmental attributes).

### Next Steps

- ✓ Continue standardization on purchasing solely EPEAT Gold products when product refresh is required. (EPEAT Gold products meet all required and 75 percent of optional criteria.)
- ✓ Participate in working groups and support the expansion of EPEAT to new product areas including print imaging devices and televisions.