Ecolabel criteria development for Network Equipment - Opportunity to Get Involved

TÜV Rheinland, in partnership with the Green Electronics Council, is launching a process to develop sustainability criteria for network equipment that will be eligible for GEC's EPEAT ecolabel and TÜV's Green Product Mark. Criteria for this product category will be developed through a balanced voluntary consensus process, beginning in early 2019 and running for 18 months through mid-2020. TÜV and GEC anticipate the launch of this new product category for network equipment in early 2021, including a joint registration and certification option.

This process will develop sustainability leadership criteria for enterprise-scale switches and routers, and customer premises routers. Criteria will address multiple attributes and sustainability performance areas such as energy efficiency, restriction of harmful substances, corporate social performance, design for recycling, product packaging, product longevity, and responsible end of life management.

Participation in the criteria development process is open to any interested stakeholders, including: manufacturers; other industry such as suppliers and recyclers; sustainability advocates, including government regulators, not-for-profits and academics; purchasers and standard users. See below for more information on participation options.

Informational calls on this project were held on January 9 – 11, 2019. See the recording of the presentation to learn more about the network equipment partnership, criteria development process and how to get involved.

Stakeholder Participation Options

There are multiple opportunities to participate, and there are no membership fees required for participation. Technical Committee meetings are open to all interested parties. Interested stakeholders can sign up online for any of the participation option below.

1. **Technical Committee Member (voting)**
   The Technical Committee is selected through an application process in order to achieve a balance of stakeholder interests and technical expertise. The recommended size of the Technical Committee is 25-30 voting members. Interested stakeholders should apply for voting membership on the Technical Committee online by January 31, 2019. A bio or CV is required with your submission. After January 31, applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

   Technical Committee members are sought in the following categories: 1) manufacturers; 2) other industry such as suppliers and recyclers; 3) sustainability advocates, including government regulators, not-for-profits and academics; and 4) purchasers and standard users.

   Technical Committee members are expected to actively participate in the criteria development process, including monthly teleconferences and two 2-day in person meetings (with a teleconference option) in 2019. The Technical Committee process will launch in early 2019 and run 18 months through mid-2020.

2. **Technical Committee Observer (non-voting)**
   Meetings are open to all interested parties. Technical Committee Observers receive direct notification of meetings and teleconferences. Register as an Observer online.

3. **Ad Hoc Group Participant**
   Ad Hoc Groups will be formed by the Technical Committee to address specific technical issues and provide recommendations to the Technical Committee. Ad hoc members may be drawn from the Technical Committee, but Technical Committee participation is not required to participate on

Ad Hoc Groups. If you are interested in participating in Ad Hoc Groups only, please specify your area of expertise when completing the online form.

4. **Registered Stakeholder**
    Please sign up online if you wish to stay informed about the progress of the ecolabel criteria development and participate in the public consultation of the draft ecolabel criteria.

Please contact Sustainable.NE@tuv.net with any questions about the process or issues with the online registration form.

About GEC

The Green Electronics Council (GEC) is a mission-driven 501c(4) non-profit that supports institutional purchasers to achieve a world in which only sustainable IT products are designed, manufactured, and purchased. GEC founded and manages EPEAT, the leading global ecolabel for IT products. The EPEAT Registry, available on the Green Electronics Council website, is a free and trusted resource which identifies the cost-effective, innovative, sustainable IT products that meet the EPEAT ecolabel criteria. Using the EPEAT Registry makes it easy for purchasers to select high-performance IT products that meet their IT requirements and sustainability goals. The GEC environmental benefits calculator allows purchasers of EPEAT registered products to quantify the environmental and cost savings benefits of those procurement decisions.

About TÜV Rheinland

TÜV Rheinland is a global leader in independent technical services, founded in 1872. The group maintains a worldwide presence of more than 20,000 people; annual turnover is nearly EUR 2 billion. The independent experts stand for quality and safety for people, technology and the environment in nearly all aspects of life. TÜV Rheinland inspects technical equipment, products and services, oversees projects, and helps to shape processes and information security for companies. Its experts train people in a wide range of careers and industries. To this end, TÜV Rheinland employs a global network of approved labs, testing and education centers. Since 2006, TÜV Rheinland has been a member of the United Nations Global Compact to promote sustainability and combat corruption.

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