Fitchburg State University – Green IT Guidelines for IT Purchases

The Goal of Green IT at Fitchburg State University is to reduce the use of hazardous materials, maximize energy efficiency during the equipment lifecycle, and promote the recyclability of defunct equipment.

According to the Climate Savers Computing Initiative (CSCI) which was formed in 2007 and later joined The Green Grid in 2012, the typical desktop PC wastes more than half of the power it draws from a power outlet. Servers typically waste 30-40% of the power they consume. This energy is wasted as heat. As a result, offices, homes, and data centers have increased demands on air conditioning which in turn increases energy requirements and associated costs.

The Technology Department at Fitchburg State University works with vendors to purchase equipment that meets Energy Star ratings, and receives EPEAT GOLD ratings.

The Energy Star program is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program that identifies energy efficient products. While the Energy Star rated product may cost slightly more than its less-efficient counterpart, the added cost will be recovered with increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings within a reasonable time period.

EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) is a program that evaluates desktops and laptops on 51 environmental criteria to determine if they are an Environmentally Preferable Product (EPP). Based on the number of criteria a product meets, it is registered as a bronze, silver or gold EPEAT product. All EPEAT products are compliant with the Energy Star standards when the product was released.