

Buying EPEAT Registered Electronics in 2007:

(EPEAT rates electronics on environmental impact)

- Reduced use of primary materials by 75.5 million metric tons, equivalent to the weight of more than 585 million refrigerators.
- Reduced use of toxic materials, including mercury, by 3,220 metric tons, equivalent to the weight of 1.6 million bricks.
- Eliminated enough mercury to fill 482,381 household thermometers.
- Recycling 1 glass bottle can save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Over the life of the products, 42.2 billion kWh of electricity will be saved—enough to power 3.7 million U.S. homes for a year.
- Over the life of the products, 3.31 million metric tons of carbon equivalent greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced—equivalent to removing 2,630,000 U.S. cars from the road for a year

- Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)

Creve Coeur: Green Action and Planning

Creve Coeur, another of several cities, is on quick pace to be a regional leader in environmental practices. The City has taken many green actions to date. These actions encouraged by citizens such as John May (chairman of an environmental committee), include joining the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), running a green house gas inventory, signing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, pushing community educations through their Newsletter and the National Night Out, replacing of lights with more efficient bulbs, and encouraging employees to turn off lights and computers at night. While Creve Coeur has built a good foundation of environmental initiatives,

they have many more plans to complete in the future.

One of the important factors in becoming a greener municipality or city is good planning. Creve Coeur has set out future goals and plans to achieve them. The city is using the LEED certification for existing buildings to look at policies on maintenance, creating a green purchasing policy for the city, and designated environmental products that are to replace current fixtures. Jayson Christensen, of Creve Coeur, said that planning allows for step-by-step green renovation. Cost may be too great to make all the environmental changes at once but slowly replacing appliances as needed is much more manageable especially when a plan is in place.

Creve Coeur developed a strategic plan to address en-

ergy, recycling, community education, and building and maintenance issues related to environmental concerns. As Creve Coeur continues to work with the community, schools, and businesses to shape their decisions, a greener and more environmentally conscious city will emerge.

*For more information that can help make your community green visit these websites:

ICLEI:
<http://www.icleiusa.org/>

LEED for Existing Buildings:
<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=221>

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement:
<http://usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>

Webster Groves: Motivated Initiative

Besides being one of the first municipalities to adopt single stream recycling, Webster has been dedicated to furthering their commitment to environmental action. A few projects in Webster are underway or upcoming. The Parks department is addressing and implement-

ing recycling, rain gardens, and native/drought resistant plants. A grant is being acquired to conduct an energy audit of municipal buildings. An idling policy now applies to city vehicles. These initiatives are occurring in conjunction with a highly motivated team of experts that make up Webster's Sustain-

ability Commission. Moving forward from current and past environmental actions, much enthusiasm surrounds Webster's future plans which include a green roof on their recreation center. Webster's pedestrian friendly community is committed to a great environmental future.

Purchasing Green: Helpful Guides

Many of the products used in buildings heavily impact our health, performance, and the environment. Purchasing the right products, especially cleaning products, can alleviate many of these issues. In the January issue of CitiesGoGreen, an article on green cleaning in schools states that indoor air pollution can be “100 times greater than outdoors, due to cleaners, upholstery and carpeting.” The article mentions a plethora of health complications such as coughing, headache, chest pain, and in sever cases cramping, cancer, and brain damage as possible effects of long term exposure to indoor pollutants. While many people are looking to build green, concern needs to be applied to interior products and cleaning supplies.

Knowing what to look for and buy with regards to paints, carpets, and cleaning supplies is a large task. Many guides exist to help with the purchasing of these types of products. Here are a few options listed in January’s CitiesGoGreen magazine issue to choose from when deciding what products to buy:

- Green Seal: Develops stan-

dards and identifies environmentally preferable products. Focuses on purchasing, operations, and facilities for governments and their agencies.
<http://www.greenseal.org/programs/government.cfm>

- Energy Star: Energy efficient products and practices at all levels, with much information.
<http://www.energystar.gov/>
- EcoLogo: Canada-based, serving North America and beyond, develops standards and identifies environmentally preferable choices in more than 250 product areas.
<http://www.ecologo.org/en/>
- Chlorine Free Products Association: Certifies chlorine free papers.
<http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org/>
- GREENGUARD Environmental Institute: Establishes indoor air standards for products, environments, and buildings.
<http://www.greenguard.org/>
- EPEAT: Helps purchasers evaluate, compare and select IT equipment based on environ-

mental attributes.
<http://www.epeat.net/>

- Scientific Certification Systems: California-based SCS specializes in food, natural resources and manufacturing, including many office furnishings.
<http://www.scs-certified.com/>

These green purchasing guides can help guide municipal policies as well as inform municipal purchases for government buildings. Many states are implementing healthy schools campaigns based on using more environmentally conscious cleaning supplies. These practices can be implemented by anyone or any institution. A few other helpful websites include:

- Green Building Council
<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=221>
- New York’s Green Cleaning Program
<https://greencleaning.ny.gov/Entry.asp>

Green Conference

A great conference opportunity to learn about green building and energy efficiency for municipal buildings, commercial buildings, and homeowners is being presented by the U.S. Green Building Council—St. Louis Chapter Advocacy Committee. As seen in East-West Gateway’s News Bulletin, a two part series for municipal leaders is being held **Thursday, June 18**, from 7-9 PM at the Schlafly Bottle-

works (7260 Southwest Ave, Maplewood) and **Thursday, August 13**, from 7-9PM at the Webster Groves Recreation Center (33 E. Glendale Road, Webster Groves).

The June 18th session will have experts talking about the benefits, planning, and execution of energy efficiency as well as funding, incentives, and best practices in cities. The August 13th session will cover

residential green building rating systems, overview of federal and state incentives, and ways to promote residential sustainability.

*Reservations to attend either or both sessions can be made to usgbc-stl@mobot.org or (314) 577-0854.