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Building a Sustainable End-User Computing Strategy

A PRACTICAL CHECKLIST FOR RESPONSIBLE IT LEADERS

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In my previous blogs, I explained why organisations need to **rethink their End-User Computing (EUC) strategies** and shared a **simple checklist** to help them build smarter, more responsible plans tailored to their goals, users, and regions.

As that foundation is laid, it's critical to put sustainability at the core. From laptops and desktops to peripherals and accessories, the choices made around devices impact not only IT budgets and user productivity but also environmental footprints and regulatory compliance.

Sustainable EUC means selecting devices that align with your company's climate goals, regulatory mandates, and ethical commitments, while delivering reliability and performance in diverse working environments.

This guide offers a comprehensive sustainability checklist to help IT leaders embed responsible sourcing and lifecycle management into their EUC strategy.

What to Demand from Vendors & Devices

Specify recognised eco-label tiers (e.g., TCO Gen 9, EPEAT Climate+)
Ensures devices meet verified environmental and social standards, reducing overall carbon footprint.

Request embodied-carbon disclosures (ISO 14067, PAS 2050)
To understand full lifecycle emissions to inform refresh cycle decisions.

Insist on vendor-funded take-back in all deployment regions
Supports responsible recycling and circular economy for end-user devices.

Audit supply-chain ethics (latest RBA VAP score, Modern Slavery compliance)
Certifies devices against verified environmental and social standards, cutting their overall carbon footprint.

Set minimum firmware support periods and repairability targets
Extends usable device lifespan, lowering total cost of ownership and e-waste.

Test devices for local climate conditions (humidity, altitude)
Guarantees device reliability and energy efficiency in diverse workplaces.

Key Eco-Labels & Certifications for EUC Devices

Not all certifications are created equal. Here are the most relevant for end-user devices, what they mean, and recent updates to watch:

	Why It Matters	Recent Updates
ENERGY STAR v9.0	Lower idle and low-load power draw, critical for laptops and desktops used intermittently	New spec finalised late 2024, with tighter power limits for AI-capable GPUs
EPEAT Climate+	Includes embodied carbon limits and verified renewable energy use during manufacture	Climate+ tier launched 2024, aligning with corporate Science-Based Targets
TCO Certified Generation 9	Focus on safer chemicals, recycled plastics, repairability and supply chain transparency	2024 edition updated battery lifecycle and traceability requirements
Blue Angel & Korea Eco-Label	Set minimum recycled content and carbon footprint limits, important for multinational fleets	Korea label updated 2023, helping harmonise specs across APAC and EU
Vendor Sustainability Initiatives *(e.g., Dell Tree-Planting, HP Circular Device-as-a-Service)*	Can close scope-3 emissions gaps, but verify third-party audits and take-back guarantees	

Regional Regulations & Compliance for EUC

EUC devices often span multiple jurisdictions; understanding regional regulations helps avoid compliance risks and future-proofs procurement:

Australia & New Zealand
Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for monitors and power supplies; NTCRS take-back requirements; Modern Slavery Act disclosures

Singapore
Resource Sustainability Act (EPR for IT equipment) since 2021; green procurement guidelines for public sector

Japan
Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for monitors and power supplies; NTCRS take-back requirements; Modern Slavery Act disclosures

China
China RoHS 2 with new 2024 testing standards for restricted substances

India
E-Waste (Management) Rules 2022 requiring OEMs/importers to collect 80% of products sold; ongoing amendments under legal review

South Korea
Eco-Label expansion to tablets and mini-PCs; EPR scheme in public tenders

Embedding Ethical Sourcing in Your EUC Strategy

Ethics matter beyond environmental impact; responsible sourcing reduces risk and protects brand reputation:

Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) Code of Conduct v8.0.

Check for vendor audit results to ensure compliance.

Conflict Minerals / Responsible Minerals Initiative

Especially relevant for supply chains feeding US/EU markets.

Modern Slavery Legislation

Mandate supplier disclosures and risk assessments, especially in Australia and New Zealand.

Public Sector Procurement & EUC Sustainability

Many government buyers set strong sustainability expectations, which can serve as best-practice benchmarks:

Australia (Commonwealth & States)	Preference for EPEAT Silver+, NTCRS take-back, and Modern Slavery compliance statements
Singapore GovTech	ENERGY STAR compliance, Resource Sustainability Act adherence, and use of low-halogen plastics
Japan National Procurement	Top Runner energy efficiency, Eco-Mark or equivalent certification

Why Sustainability Matters for End-User Computing

Sustainability in your EUC strategy drives more than just environmental benefits. It:

1. **Reduces Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)** by extending device lifecycles and lowering energy consumption
2. **Mitigates Supply Chain Risks** by ensuring ethical sourcing and regulatory compliance
3. **Supports Corporate Climate Commitments** with transparent carbon accounting and circular economy practices
4. **Enhances User Satisfaction and Reliability** by testing devices for local conditions and durability

By integrating these sustainability criteria into procurement, IT leaders can transform their EUC strategy into a powerful enabler of business value and responsible growth.

Ready to green your end-user computing? Talk to us.

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