

What is the University's Commitment to being Carbon Neutral?

The University of Southern Queensland is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2020. ICT Services has an integral role in developing strategies to reduce USQ's carbon footprint relating to information communication and technology use.

Strategic areas of focus include:

- 1 Minimising energy consumption by idle devices, specifically desktop computers and mobile devices.
- 2 Reducing the amount of equipment required through consolidation and virtualisation. Specific initiatives include:
 - Consolidating servers and managing optimised virtual infrastructure.
 - Consolidating applications and infrastructure by promoting the use of shared services including cloud computing.
 - Building and managing more efficient data centres for a Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) rating of less than 2.0 and approaching 1.0.
 - Consolidating computer laboratories.
 - Consolidating the number of printers in use and replacing these with more efficient larger capacity multi-function printing devices.
- 3 Encouraging electronic collaboration through the use of the learning management system, Microsoft SharePoint technologies and other collaboration tools, and increase the effectiveness of all staff and students.
- 4 Implementing new computing infrastructures such as more use of mobile devices or thin clients.
- 5 Safely disposing of ICT equipment and eWaste.
- 6 Procuring the greenest equipment such as Electronic Production Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEATTM)¹, registered desktop computers, laptops and monitors or purchasing products with a high ENERGY STAR² and EPEATTM rating.
- 7 Centralisation of ICT procurement, deployment and disposal, assisting with improving asset management, reusing and recycling across the University.
- 8 Reducing unnecessary travel by using remote communication technologies.
- 9 Reducing unnecessary printing.
- 10 Replacing/upgrading the University's phone system.

Green Printing

The University continues to investigate a number of specific strategies to reduce the amount of unnecessary printing, including:

1 EPEATTM is a system to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes. EPEATTM also provides a clear and consistent set of performance criteria for the design of products and provides an opportunity for manufacturers to secure market recognition for efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their products.

2 ENERGY STAR is an international standard for energy-efficient electronic equipment. IT was created by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and has now been adopted by several countries around the world, including Australia.

- All networked printers and multi-function devices are configured by default to print duplex.
- Multi-function devices enable greater use of scanning features rather than printing.
- Meeting agendas and associated material are published online to reduce the requirement to print meeting material.

More Information

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