

AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY

**ADDENDUM TO
POLICY STATEMENT
ON
GREEN ICT**



This document supplements the ACS Policy Statement on ICT and associated Emissions Audit of the Use of ICT in Australia, released in August 2007.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the ACS found that the amount of carbon dioxide being generated by use of ICT by Australian businesses amounted to around 7.94Mt or around 1.52% of the total national carbon dioxide emissions for Australia.

The ACS believes that innovation in ICT has a key and ongoing role to play in reducing global green house gas emissions by streamlining processes, creating more efficient energy use and improving the efficiency of electronic equipment for both domestic and commercial situations.

To help ICT professionals make more energy efficient choices for their firms and to improve their knowledge of green ICT initiatives, the ACS has established a national Green ICT Special Interest Group to provide a forum for sharing information and keeping up to date on this vital issue.

The ACS Green ICT Policy can be found at

UPDATED POLICY POSITION

Following discussions with Members and the Government's proposal to introduce the Star Energy Rating System to television sets, the ACS has bolstered its Green ICT policy to include:

- A compulsory manufacturer take back policy taking into consideration the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment directives, which requires ICT manufacturers to take back old ICT hardware when new hardware is purchased or upgraded. The ACS supports take back programs such as Byte Back.

As the largest single purchaser of ICT goods and services in Australia, the Federal Government is in a commanding position to lead by example in tackling the growing e-waste problem by

ensuring that its ICT procurement guidelines and programs contain a take back clause for all its ICT equipment suppliers.

New ICT supply contracts and new policies that are going to be implemented following on from the Governments acceptance of all the recommendations from the Gershon review into the use of ICT in the Federal Public Sector provide a perfect opportunity to put this policy into action.

- Introduce the Star Energy Rating system for all domestic and commercial ICT goods. This will allow consumers and ICT professionals to compare the energy consumption of ICT products and make the best choice in terms of reducing energy use and costs for businesses and households.

GREEN ICT CHECKLIST

As part of its green ICT policy, the ACS has developed a check list for use by ICT professionals in developing green ICT policies and programs for their organisations.

- Look at power consumption and reduction in power consumption when upgrading ICT hardware.
- Newer operating systems allow computers and other hardware to be put into sleep mode during periods of inactivity.
- Investigate carbon offset programs to offset ICT carbon emissions.
- Implement server virtualisation.
- Implement desktop virtualisation using ultra small and thin clients on the desktop which will reduce power consumption, reduce PC maintenance costs, increase security and set up new workgroups quickly.
- Deploy integrated telephony by replacing stand alone handsets with soft phone clients on computer workstations.

The ACS believes ICT professionals can have a significant impact on developing solutions that optimise resource use and improving energy efficiency through the deployment of new and innovative technologies.

ICT based solutions are going to be a key factor in reducing emissions and increasing Australia's international competitiveness and generate global opportunities for Australian ICT professionals and Australian businesses.