

Green Computing Policy

The VLS IT department has a long record of environmentally responsible use of computing resources. The IT department sponsors CD and diskette recycling units on campus, finds opportunities for reuse of our decommissioned equipment, uses recycled materials for printing, supports efforts to control printing volume and promotes the use of low power consumption and low heat alternatives when feasible to support our campus greening initiatives. The following document confirms our continuing commitment to resource conservation and documents the long-standing unwritten policies of this department. A good faith effort is made to evaluate computing resource choices in light of the principles outlined in this document.

Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship is the concept of responsible management of all of the natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations of people, plants, animals, and the entire living Earth.

Sustainability

Sustainable development does not focus solely on environmental issues. Sustainable solutions encompass Environmental Stewardship and address the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development understood to be:

- 1) Economic development
- 2) Social development
- 3) Environmental protection

Sustainability for our purposes includes a reasonable review of resources to insure that the manufacturing is done in a sustainable socially responsible manner. Sustainability also means that in use the product will be low impact on an economic and environmental basis.

Energy Efficiency / Climate Protection

Energy efficient product designs and systems reduce power requirements which in turn reduce carbon dioxide emissions. From our perspective in IT we will focus on placing systems in stand-by mode when not in use, reducing heat in our server room, reducing power consumption by our server room and consolidating our resource use to reflect the optimal balance between reliability, risk, efficiency and low carbon impact.

Transportation and Logistics

Reducing the carbon footprint impact through advocating concepts that directly address the large scale transportation activities associated with global or local computing technologies manufacturing and student, faculty and staff transportation requirements. Our department endeavors to use local training when available, promote telecommuting when feasible and evaluate the selection of vendors with an eye toward supporting and sustaining local and regional resource and vendor solutions.

Materials Utilization, Recovery & Recycling

In this area we include consideration for the selection, management and recovery of materials necessarily utilized in computing technology products. In our case, this results in assuring re-use and recycling whenever possible. The IT department resells or donates resources when possible, recycles materials when re-use is not possible and when all else fails, our department assures that equipment reaches the appropriate disposal facility.

Product Life Cycle

The IT department considers the entire life cycle of the product. We consider the materials and energy considerations of the product during manufacture and distribution, product use, recovery reuse and disposal. Is the product design solution upgradeable, reusable, modular, degradable, have we considered full end-of life implications? While some very necessary IT products may not have the most favorable answers to these questions, our inquiries of vendors and our pursuit of better solutions will have impact internally and in the marketplace.

User Needs / Human Factors

Our IT planning will consider and demonstrate thoughtfulness, investigation, and validation regarding the capabilities, limitations and needs of the students, faculty and staff. Our computing resource choices are made to advance – directly or indirectly – the safety, well-being, and productivity of our community.