

The focus of Environmental Information System (ENVIS) scheme is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

CERC-ENVIS, Resource Partner to MoEF&CC works on the thematic mandate of 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest of Environment , developments and innovations.

Green Issue



EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool)

EPEAT is a global rating system for greener electronic products. Covering products and services from the technology sector, EPEAT evaluates, compares and select electronic products based on environmental attributes.

It's an easy-to-use resource for purchasers, manufacturers, resellers and others wanting to find and promote environmentally preferable products. The EPEAT system combines strict, comprehensive criteria for design, production, energy use and recycling with ongoing independent verification of manufacturer claims. EPEAT was developed through a stakeholder consensus process and is managed by the Green Electronics Council (GEC), a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon, USA. It is dedicated to informing purchasers of the environmental criteria of electronic products.



The EPEAT ecolabel ensures the validity of EPEAT-registered products through an ongoing surveillance process known as Continuous Monitoring. Continuous Monitoring activities occur throughout the year and test the ability of Participating Manufacturers to prove conformance with EPEAT criteria on an ongoing basis. All EPEAT-registered products in all product categories and all Participating Manufacturers are subject to Continuous Monitoring.

Source: <https://www.epeat.net/>

Right to Repair

Globally, a huge amount of e-waste is generated which results in serious environmental problem. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India generated 7.71 lakh tonnes in 2018-19 & 10.14 lakh tonnes in 2019-2020. This shows an increase of about 31%.

Manufacturers have monopolized the market by holding the propriety control over the product and its spare parts. They have created a system whereby the design of any product is such that it lasts a particular time only & after which it has to be mandatorily replaced. This forces the consumers to depend on the manufacturing company due to lack of repairing outlet, high cost of repairing parts, warranty/guarantee period of the product and user's lack of information and knowledge on repairing the products. At times, some products manufactured fall under planned obsolescence i.e. designing a product with an artificially limited useful life. This after a certain period of usage makes the product obsolete and turns it into an e-waste forcing the consumers to buy new products without giving them a choice of repairing and reusing.

One of the important possibility to reduce production of e-waste is extending product lifespan via repair which is often overlooked. Repair is defined as "returning as faulty or broken product or component back to a useable state".

Repair not only lengthens the product life it also delays replacement purchase, reduces the production of e-waste. It is also an important feature of circular economy. It has the least detrimental impact on environment when compared to replacement and refurbishment.

Repairing has an environmental benefit of reducing the burden on manufacturing units in producing new products & selling the same. It has social benefits in terms of providing training and skill development in repairing services which in turn will increase the economic growth and employability.



Recently, Department of Consumer Affairs, India has proposed a framework on 'Right to Repair' which aims to empower consumers and product buyers in the local market, harmonize trade between the original equipment manufacturers and the third-party buyers and sellers. Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables and Automobiles/Automobile Equipment are the sectors identified by the right to repair committee.

The key feature of the framework includes:

- Provision of complete knowledge & access to manuals, software updates
- Parts and tools to service device shall be available for third parties and individuals
- Eradication of monopoly of the manufacturers

The right to repair has been recognised in many countries across the globe including the United State of America, United Kingdom and European Union. In USA, the Federal Trade Commission has directed manufacturers to remedy unfair anti-competitive practices and asked them to make sure that consumers can make repairs, either themselves or by a third-party agency. Recently, United Kingdom has also passed a law that includes all the electronic appliance manufacturers to provide the consumers with spare parts for getting the repair done either by themselves or by the local repair shops.

In line with PM Narendra Modi's LiFE (Lifestyle for the environment) movement, Right to Repair' will be a significant function of all forms of reuse and even for the sustainable life of the product. The framework would be a game changer for the sustainability of the product and for the employment generation through Aatmanirbhar Bharat by allowing third-party service providers and self-repairing of the products.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1841403>

Eco-Tips

Let us fix the environment by repairing
REPAIR it before you REPLACE it!

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