

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE IT STANDARDS

December 2017

The Sustainable IT Standards were developed by the Green IT Committee in 2017 in collaboration with the Harvard Office for Sustainability and Harvard University Information Technology (HUIT). The Standards were approved by the CIO Council in December 2017, and were updated in June 2021.

WASTE

ELECTRONIC WASTE

- Repair or recycle all electronic hardware, devices, and consumables in a secure and sustainable manner by partnering with electronics recycling vendors that are E-stewards and/or R2v3 certified, aiming ultimately for a circular economy model.
- Encourage a closed, life-cycle loop for e-waste treatment, regardless of procurement approach (purchase or leased).
- Spur IT vendors to use healthy materials and components in information and communication technology hardware and devices.

GREEN PRINTING

- Implement managed printing/copying across campus to reduce the number of personal printers and the ratio of printing/copying devices per FTE across campus.
- Optimize efficiency of resources (paper, toner, energy costs) by deploying multi-functional devices and managed print options.

ENERGY

INTELLIGENT BUILDING SYSTEMS

- Establish and implement standards for the deployment, secure integration, and use of intelligent building systems in all new construction and existing buildings across campus.
- Leverage the Harvard-Siemens relationship, and other operational technology vendors and solutions to achieve greater energy and cost efficiencies in running buildings through increased transparency, best-practice sharing, and data-driven recommendations.

DATACENTERS

- Partner with HUIT and University partners on data center consolidation efforts.
- Follow the EU Datacenter code of conduct and ASHRAE datacenter guidelines.
- Meter energy use in datacenters. Track datacenter power usage effectiveness (PUE).
- Incorporate renewable energy and efficient operations as key criteria for off-site datacenter selection.

ENDPOINT POWER MANAGEMENT

- Continue to increase the number of Schools and departments utilizing standards for power management settings on endpoint devices.
- Leverage energy efficiencies and power management gains in future hardware and operating systems wherever possible.

PRACTICE

SHARED RESOURCES

- Promote and increase the use of shared, managed Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) resources, and services across campus.

CLOUD COMPUTING & OTHER IT VENDOR MANAGEMENT

- Include effective sustainability practices as criteria in the selection and on-going management of cloud computing and other IT vendors & service providers.

AV/MULTIMEDIA SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

- Identify and address sustainability opportunities through design and energy/resource reduction.
- Create and manage shared av/multimedia spaces to maximize usage to reduce need for air travel.

Photo: The The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) is a world-class LEED Platinum certified data center dedicated to supporting the growing research computing needs of five of the most research-intensive universities in Massachusetts: Boston University (BU), Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts (UMass). Photo courtesy MGHPCC.