



ACER, 12th position, 2.9/10

Acer takes 12th position with a score of 2.9. It is weakest on the **Energy** criteria, scoring nothing for its objectives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as although Acer intended to set these targets in 2010, this has not been done. Acer has drawn up an “energy reduction policy” with five major directions, including increasing energy efficiency and the purchase of carbon credits for renewable energy; it reports on energy efficiency savings. It supports cuts of 30 percent by 2020 from industrialised countries but needs to set some ambitious targets of its own, to reduce GHG emissions by at least 30 percent by 2015 for its operations and to dramatically increase renewable electricity use by 2020. It also does not provide external verification for the GHG emissions that it reports for its operations and business travel.

It does not do much better on **Products**; it scores no points on product life cycle and needs to publicly disclose the length of warranty and spare parts availability for its main product lines. However, it does report on the use of post-consumer recycled plastic in monitor casings of seven families of EPEAT Gold models. It has also launched many new models of products that are free from polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and it has informed Greenpeace that the majority of its products will be PVC/BFR free in the near future. A higher percentage of its products need to meet or exceed the latest Energy Star standards in order for it to score more points on product energy efficiency.

It scores most of its points on Sustainable **Operations**, doing particularly well on chemicals management for its lobbying for restrictions on organo-halogens and for its precautionary approach to chemicals, although it does need to update its chemicals management systems and make them more thorough. Acer scores well for reporting on emissions of GHGs from its first tier suppliers and is investigating the second tier; Acer’s programme includes auditing and reduction targets. It publishes the results of a survey it did of its suppliers on use of conflict minerals but does not yet provide a map of its smelters or suppliers. It fails to score on paper sourcing as it doesn’t specify the need to source FSC paper or aim to avoid the use of fibres from illegal logging or deforestation.

ACER Overall Score

	ZERO	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Disclose own operational GHG emissions				
GHG emissions reductions and targets				
Clean Electricity Plan (CEP)				
Clean Energy Policy Advocacy				
Product Energy Efficiency				
Avoidance of Hazardous Substances in Products				
Use of Recycled Plastic in Products				
Product Life-Cycle				
Measure and reduce energy consumption in the supply chain				
Chemicals Management and Advocacy				
Policy and practice on sustainable sourcing of fibres for paper				
Policy and practice on avoidance of conflict minerals				
Provides effective voluntary take-back where no EPR laws				

ACER Detailed Scoring

Energy

Disclose own operational GHG emissions	GHG emissions reductions and targets	Clean Electricity Plan (CEP)	Clean Energy Policy Advocacy
2/3	0/8	1/8	1/8
<p>Acer calculates GHG emissions of worldwide operations in 2010 at around 132,040 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). Over 60% of emissions are generated by Acer e-Enabling Data Center's (eDC) data supply and storage services. Excluding eDC's operations, total GHG emissions in 2010 amount to 44,073 tonnes CO₂e. This data covers Scope 1, 2, and 3 and includes emissions from product use and supply chain inventory.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, pp. 9, 34 & 35</p> <p>Slightly different figures for 2009 (35,750 CO₂e) are reported on Acer's website. This figure includes 3,083 tons CO₂e for business travel.</p> <p>External verification is not provided for its GHG emissions data, however, Acer states that by "training our personnel to establish more complete and reliable procedures for evaluating emissions data we will be better placed to facilitate third party verification and also to respond to stricter standards for data reliability in the future." More information.</p> <p>For more points Acer needs to provide external verification and more background information and analysis on the source of its GHG emissions (on its website or CR report).</p>	<p>One of Acer's 2010 goals was to develop GHG reduction goals. Acer states that: "In 2010, to improve inventory comprehensiveness, Acer redefined its organization boundaries, and will move to set an appropriate GHG reduction goals accordingly." Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, p. 6</p> <p>Previously Acer expected to finalise its short-term, mid-term and long term GHG reduction targets in 2009. This was already delayed as previously Acer expected to finalize its mid- and long-term GHG reduction targets in winter 2008. (previous web-page)</p> <p>GHG emissions have risen substantially since 2007 but have reduced slightly from the 2009 level. P.35, CR Report 2010.</p> <p>Acer needs to set ambitious targets and aim to reduce its own GHG emissions by at least 30% by 2015 for its operations and dramatically increase renewable electricity use by 2020.</p>	<p>Although Acer has no goals or targets, it has drawn up an "energy reduction policy" with five major directions, including increasing energy efficiency and the purchase of carbon credits for renewable energy.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>Acer states that it is "now planning to assess the feasibility of investing in projects to generate or purchase renewable energy to offset our emissions in the future." Previously Acer reported that a global survey was conducted in 2008 on purchasing renewable energy and that it was assessing the feasibility of using renewable energy, however it has still not updated its website with the results of this survey.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, p. 37</p> <p>More information here and here.</p> <p>Details of energy efficiency savings that have been made are provided, as well as information on the installation of a combined solar and wind power generation system at its e-enabling Data Centre in Taiwan, the first of its facilities to install renewable energy. Acer has also pledged, along with other enterprises, to reduce electricity consumption by 5% within three years, as part of a voluntary carbon reduction plan promoted by the Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan. P. 37, 38 CR Report.</p>	<p>Acer states that it "offers support both directly and indirectly to enhance policymaking efficiency: it participates in the policy enactment process by offering its own frontline experiences, and involves in organizations concerned with such issues to provide industrial perspectives. These issues encompass wide-ranging concerns on a global, regional, and local level in Taiwan – where Acer is headquartered."</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, p. 23</p> <p>Acer supports the reduction targets proposed by the EU, which are to cut GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 globally and 30% by 2020 from industrialised countries (compared to 1990 levels). Acer also supports calls for global GHG emissions to peak by 2015. More information.</p>

Greener Products

Product Energy Efficiency	Avoidance of Hazardous Substances in Products	Use of Recycled Plastic in Products	Product Life-Cycle
2/5	2/5	1/3	0/3
<p>63.2% of notebook PCs and 40.6% of desktop PCs (52% in total) are compliant with Energy Star 5.0. The typical energy consumption (TEC) of Aspire Timeline 4810T notebooks is about half the Category A requirement of Energy Star 5.0.</p> <p>Its PowerSmart adapter in no-load mode can reach 0.1 W, which is 67% better than the Energy Star requirement of 0.3 W. However, this requirement is now out of date and Acer needs to report on the percentage of its EPSs that meet Level V of the International Efficiency Marking Protocol for External Power Supplies.</p> <p>Acer gives the example of optimal system efficiency; to increase the product energy efficiency, an energy-saving systematic design is used instead of increasing the battery capacity. Each notebook features a Acer PowerSmart key that extends battery life automatically increasing energy efficiency when activated.</p> <p>More information.</p>	<p>New BVR/PVC free products that have been launched since 2010 Q3 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sixteen new models of TravelMate and Gateway notebooks that are BFRs/PVC-free (except external cables) - Four new monitors. - Acer's first BFR/PVC-free Desktop "ahornet" – another is due later in 2011. - ICONIA SMART is the first BFR/PVC-free Smart Handheld that Acer launched in 2011 Q3 <p>More information.</p> <p>These add to Acer's existing BFR/PVC-free products, such as the four notebooks launched in January 2010 and the 16 models of LCD monitor launched since October 2008.</p> <p>Acer has a new timeline and roadmap for eliminating PVC and BFRs of 2011, which now applies only to personal and mobile computing products; its previous commitment applied to all products.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>Acer has informed Greenpeace that the majority of its products will be PVC/BFR free in the near future. More information.</p> <p>Acer has adopted a timeline of 2012 for the phase out of all phthalates, beryllium and compounds and antimony and compounds in all new products. Certain phthalates are to be phased out by 2011, along with PVC and all phthalates by 2012. More information.</p>	<p>Acer uses a material containing 28% post-consumer recycled plastic in monitor casings of 7 families of EPEAT Gold models. The recycled plastic percentage will be around 10%~13% of all plastics used in the monitor. Acer intends to draw up a phase-in plan with a detailed schedule and targets.</p> <p>More information.</p>	<p>No information.</p> <p>Acer needs to publicly disclose the length of warranty and spare parts availability for its main product lines. For maximum points it also needs to show some innovative measures that increase lifespan and durability of whole product systems, rather than only individual parts.</p>

Sustainable Operations

Measure and reduce energy consumption in the supply chain	Chemicals Management and Advocacy	Policy and practice on sustainable sourcing of fibres for paper	Policy and practice on avoidance of conflict minerals	Provides effective voluntary take-back where no EPR laws
3/5	4/5	0/3	1/5	3/8
<p>GHG emissions from Acer's supply chain are also included in its overall data (see above E1)</p> <p>Acer requires ODM suppliers to disclose product carbon footprints in the R&D and manufacture stages, taking 2008 as the baseline year. It also conducts on-site audits to verify the GHG data of all suppliers. In 2010 Acer continued to request carbon data disclosure from first and second tier suppliers and set a 3% reduction target for all supplier products. Acer aims for all product line ODM partners to be a part of this working group by the end of 2011.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, p.39</p> <p>A preliminary figure for GHG emissions from the first tier of the supply chain is around 220,000 tons of CO₂-e allocated to Acer's products in 2010. GHG emissions from the second tier of the supply chain are still under investigation.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>Acer has published carbon footprint disclosure for two of its products, which identifies raw materials, manufacturing and use as the source of the majority of GHG emissions, p36, CR Report.</p> <p>Acer also began actively participating in the WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 3 & Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standards Road Testing in 2010. See p.40 CR Report.</p>	<p>Acer's statement on the precautionary principle recognises the need for preventive action, even if scientific evidence is not conclusive. More information.</p> <p>Acer is proactively supporting a ban on organo - chlorine and bromine substances in the revision of RoHS 2.0 and scores maximum points for providing evidence of actively promoting this position to EU decision makers.</p> <p>More information here and here.</p> <p>Acer describes the mechanisms for identifying future substances of concern.</p> <p>Green Supply chain management information has not been updated with the latest restrictions requirements. Hazardous substances that are restricted for use in products should also be used intentionally in production processes. Acer needs to update its chemicals management systems and make them more thorough. More information.</p> <p>HSF (Hazardous Substance Free) Planning.</p>	<p>Acer sets out its policy on packaging, which is focussed on making its packaging recyclable and free from hazardous substances. However, it doesn't specify the need to source FSC paper, or to use recycled post-consumer fibres. There's no aim to avoid the use of fibres from illegal logging or deforestation.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>Acer needs to develop a paper procurement policy which excludes suppliers that are involved in deforestation and illegal logging and sets specific targets to reduce paper use and increase use of recycled and FSC fibres.</p>	<p>Acer has issued a statement for Materials (Metals) Extraction to its suppliers and announced that it will not accept illegally extracted metals or metals that are extracted under inhumane working conditions.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, p.44 - 45</p> <p>Acer also reports on the results of a survey of its suppliers that it undertook in 2009.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>Acer has joined the EICC initiative also but has not yet publicly mapped its smelters or suppliers. It has also joined the EICC audit process but does not have an internal audit policy on conflict minerals.</p> <p>Acer has not signed up to the Public Private Alliance; it has not made statements on the need for a multi-stakeholder certification process or publicly committed to implement the OECD due diligence guidelines.</p> <p>Acer did not issue a statement against the Chamber of Commerce lawsuit or join the multi-stakeholder submission to the SEC on conflict minerals. It did not participate in the OECD due diligence drafting or engage the public on conflict minerals.</p>	<p>Acer Indonesia launched the Acer Goes Green voluntary recycling program in April 2010, offering consumers a 100,000 rupiah coupon for turning in computer components that may contain PVC or BFRs and have passed their warranty period, including motherboards, keyboards, ODDs, LCD monitors and HDDs.</p> <p>All Acer service centres in Indonesia provide recycling services. Acer also reports on recycling activities in South Africa and America.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, pp.29, 31.</p> <p>Acer also takes back and recycles for free in India. It is unclear if Acer provides take-back in some US states and Canadian provinces, as the links provided are to NGOs and EPA's Plug in to e-cycling.</p> <p>More information.</p> <p>However, although Acer doesn't provide the link, it does in fact have a US website for recycling.</p> <p>Recycling information is provided for EU, Japanese, Taiwanese and Indian customers only. In the EU, some of the links provided navigate to trade associations (e.g. Czech Republic) and not to recyclers.</p> <p>Recycling information for Indonesia is only in its CSR report and not the website and there is no link to its US recycling programme. Acer needs to update its website or lose points in the next version of the Guide. More information.</p> <p>Europe.</p> <p>Taiwan.</p> <p>Japan - PC recycling.</p> <p>India.</p> <p>Acer reports a recycling rate of 35.75% in 2010 based on sales 6 years ago, for desktops and notebooks sold and recycled in Taiwan. However, data on the recycling rate is only for Taiwan. The total quantities recycled in Japan and America are also reported.</p> <p>Acer Corporate Responsibility Report 2010, pp.29, 30.</p>

Ranking Criteria Explained

Version 17, released in November 2011, of the Greenpeace Guide to Greener Electronics ranks companies in the electronics industry under three headings, Energy & Climate, Greener Products and Sustainable Operations.

The criteria used in version 17 of the Guide to evaluate the companies reflect Greenpeace's demands to electronics companies to:

- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) with energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Clean up their products by eliminating hazardous substances;
- Take-back and recycle their products responsibly once they become obsolete,¹ and;
- Stop the use of unsustainable materials in their products and packaging

Previous versions of the Guide ranked companies on the following criteria: Chemicals, E-waste, and Energy. The ranking in version 17 sees a major change as it reorganizes the individual criteria under new headings (Energy & Climate, Greener Products and Sustainable Operations).

In areas where Greenpeace has seen some progress, multiple criteria have been folded together into one overall criterion, putting the focus on the implementation of previous commitments. In places where the industry needs to make further progress, such as energy policy and practice, we have re-written and strengthened the current criteria. Finally, new criteria on the sourcing of paper products and conflict minerals have been added under Sustainable Operations and on product life cycle under Greener Products.

In addition to these structural changes, the scoring system has also been changed. Depending on the complexity of the criteria the maximum points awarded per criteria will vary between 3, 5 and 8 points. There will no longer be double points for any criteria in the new scoring system. The maximum score is 69, which is converted into a score out of 10.

Given the urgency of tackling climate change, Greenpeace has re-focused and updated its energy criteria to encourage electronics companies to improve their corporate policies and practices with respect to Energy and Climate.

Criteria on Energy and Climate

The criteria that companies will be evaluated on are:

1. Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
2. Commitment to reduce the company's own short term and long term GHG emissions
3. A Clean Energy Plan which includes increasing use of Renewable Energy (RE) and energy efficiency measures to implement cuts in GHGs
4. Advocacy for a Clean Energy Policy at national and sub-national level

Criteria on Greener Products

These criteria focus on the environmental performance of consumer electronics, across a number of different issues:

1. Energy efficiency of new models of specified products
2. Products on the market free from hazardous substances
3. Use of post-consumer recycled plastics in products
4. Product life cycle

Criteria on Sustainable Operations

These criteria examine how companies implement environmental considerations during manufacture in their supply chain through to the end-of-life phase of a product:

1. Reduction of supply chain GHG emissions by major suppliers
2. Policy, practice and advocacy on chemicals management
3. Policy and practice on sustainable sourcing of fibres for paper
4. Policy and practice on avoidance of conflict minerals
5. Producer responsibility for voluntary take-back of e-waste

Company scores

Companies have the opportunity to improve their score, as the Guide will be periodically updated. However, penalty points will be deducted from overall scores if Greenpeace finds a company lying, practicing double standards or other corporate misconduct.

Disclaimer

Greenpeace's 'Guide to Greener Electronics' aims to clean up the electronics sector and get manufacturers to take responsibility for the full life cycle of their products, including the e-waste that their products generate and the energy used by their products and operations.

The Guide does not rank companies on labour standards, social responsibility or any other issues, but recognises that these are important in the production and use of electronic products.

Changes in ranking guide

We first released our 'Guide to Greener Electronics' in August 2006, which ranked the 14 top manufacturers of personal computers and mobile phones according to their policies on toxic chemicals and recycling.

In the sixth issue of the Guide, we added the leading manufacturers of TVs – namely, Philips and Sharp – and the game console producers Nintendo and Microsoft. The other market leaders for TVs and game consoles are already included in the Guide.

In the eighth edition, we sharpened some of the existing ranking criteria on toxic chemicals and e-waste and added a criterion on each issue. We also added five new energy criteria. In the fourteenth edition the criteria for the Precautionary Principle criteria was made more challenging.

The 17th edition has been re-organised, to reflect campaign priorities and to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the areas where electronics companies impact the environment, under the three headings Energy & Climate, Greener Products and Sustainable Operations. Many elements of the previous criteria remain but they have been re-arranged and updated, with a greater focus on implementation rather than commitment.

It now ranks 15 top manufacturers of personal computers, TVs and mobile phones; Fujitsu, games console producers Nintendo and Microsoft are no longer included and the mobile phone manufacturer Motorola has been replaced with RIM.

For the latest version, see www.greenpeace.org/rankingguide

Sony is issued with a penalty point on its total score as it has made comments in opposition to energy efficiency standards in California, (specifically on the CA Title20 Battery chargers systems and the SB 454: Enforcement of energy efficiency appliance standards).

Sony and LGE are listed as clients of Asia Pulp and Paper (APP), which is responsible for illegal logging and deforestation in Indonesia. Sony and LGE should immediately and publicly commit to stop sourcing any paper or packaging needs from APP or risk being penalised in future versions of the Guide.

Companies that are members of the trade associations ITI and CEA are warned that they risk incurring a penalty point in future editions of the Guide; this affects all companies apart from Sony Ericsson, LGE and Acer. These industry associations have recently made comments against stricter energy efficiency standards in the scope of the California Appliance Efficiency Regulations (a. the inclusion of computers and servers; b. comments against battery chargers systems regulation, respectively). Companies need to distance themselves from such regressive positions and reiterate their support wherever possible for more stringent energy efficiency standards for all electronic products.

Penalty points previously imposed on Toshiba, Samsung, LGE, Dell and Lenovo for backtracking on their commitments to phase out vinyl plastic (PVC) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) have been lifted as a result of progress made in bringing PVC/BFR-free products onto the market.

¹ The two issues are connected: the use of harmful chemicals in electronic products prevents their safe recycling once the products are discarded.