



SONY Ranking = 5.1/10

Sony leaps from 12th place to 8th with an improved score of 5.1. It gains points on the precautionary principle criterion and for improving its expression of support for Individual Producer Responsibility.

On energy, Sony scores points on the energy efficiency of its products by reporting that all new models of TVs released in the US (but only US) meet the latest ES requirements, and 45 percent of new models of VAIO PCs launched between July 2007 and November 2008 meet the ES requirements for PCs. It discloses externally-verified greenhouse gas emissions for over 200 sites and has committed to absolute cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. However, it needs to set a target and timeline for increasing its use of renewable energy globally.

Sony does relatively well on chemicals, its score boosted by having models on the market that are partially free of PVC and BFRs, including three models of video recorder and many models of the VAIO PC, Walkman, camcorder and digital camera. It still needs to set a timeline for eliminating all phthalates, beryllium copper and antimony and its compounds.

On waste issues, Sony scores relatively poorly for its voluntary take-back and recycling of the e-waste generated by its branded products, as there is little voluntary take-back and recycling in non-OECD countries. It reports a recycling rate of 54 percent based on past sales of TVs and PCs, but this information is only for Japan and separate data need to be reported for TVs and PCs. Sony is rewarded for its use of approximately 20,000 tons recycled plastics annually across several products.

SONY Overall Score

	BAD (0)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	GOOD (3+)
Precautionary Principle				GOOD (3+)
Chemicals Management				GOOD (3+)
Timeline for PVC & BFR phaseout		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Timeline for additional substances phaseout	BAD (0)			
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models <small>(companies score double on this criterion)</small>			PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	
Individual producer responsibility			PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	
Voluntary take-back		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Information to individual customers			PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	
Amounts recycled		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Use of recycled plastic content		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Global GHG emissions reduction support	BAD (0)			
Carbon Footprint disclosure			PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	
Own GHG emissions reduction commitment		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Amounts of renewable energy used		PARTIALLY BAD (1+)		
Energy efficiency of new models <small>(companies score double on this criterion)</small>			PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	

SONY Detailed Scoring

Chemicals

Precautionary Principle	Chemicals Management	Timeline for PVC & BFR phaseout	Timeline for additional substances phaseout	PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (double points)
GOOD (3+)	GOOD (3+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	BAD (0)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)
Sony now references the precautionary principle and clarifies that this means taking action to substitute a chemical even where the scientific evidence is not fully proven. More information.	Sony provides information in SS-00259 (8th edition, March 2009) Management Regulations and Green Partner programme to ensure implementation of the Regulations. More information here and here.	Sony provides a timeline of end of Fiscal Year 2010 which means April 2011 to substitute PVC in all new models of mobile products (excluding accessories), and BFRs in the casing and main PWBs of all new models of mobile products. Sony loses a point as it needs to bring forward its timeline by one quarter to end of CY 2010. More information.	Sony is working to eliminate specific phthalates used as a plasticiser in PVC, although a timeline for all products isn't specified. More information. Sony has banned beryllium oxide from April 2008 with exemptions, although beryllium copper is listed as a controlled substance with no timeline for elimination. Antimony is not listed. More information.	BFRs are not used in the casings of any models of the VAIO PC, as of May 2008, in the printed wiring boards (PWBs) of any of B5-sized and smaller notebook PCs, or in 93% of A4 sized PCs. The type G-VAIO is free of PVC in casing and internal wiring. Other Sony products that are partially free of PVC and BFRs, including three models of video recorders, many models of Walkman, Camcorder, Digital Camera and Digital Photo Frames; the casings and internal wiring are PVC free but not external cabling, and casings and main printed wiring boards are BFR free, but not all wiring boards. More information.

E-Waste

Support for Individual Producer Responsibility	Provides voluntary take-back where no EPR laws exist	Provides info for individual customers on take-back in all countries where products are sold	Reports on amount of e-waste collected and recycled	Use of recycled plastic content in products - and timelines for increasing content
PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)
Sony supports the principle of Individual Producer Responsibility. For full marks, Sony will also need to document its operationalising of IPR and continue to lobby for IPR, inter alia by ensuring that the revised WEEE legislation sets clearer requirements (enforcement criteria) for the implementation of IPR. More information. Sony is a member of the European Recycling Platform established to implement IPR. More information.	Sony has now established a nationwide recycling program in the US, together with WM Recycle America. For more points, Sony needs to expand its take-back programme in non-OECD countries. More information. All Sony handheld products are accepted for recycling, and notebook PCs can be traded in, at its Sony Style stores across Canada. 25 non-retail locations accept all Sony products for recycling at no charge. More information. Sony offers battery take-back and recycling in Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.	Sony provides information to individual customers in the EU, US (including on batteries) and Japan, but not in Canada. More information. Also see Sony Take Back Recycling Program website for the US.	In fiscal 2007, Sony recovered 68,133 tons of resources from e-waste from Japanese consumers, which included end-of-life TVs and PCs, equating to a "resource reuse/recycling ratio of around 54% based on average lifespan of TVs and PCs. But this figure is only for Japan and there is no differentiation for TVs and PCs. More information. Sony reports on the amounts of WEEE and batteries collected in N. America, recycling rates for TVs and PCs in Japan and recycling volumes for batteries in Asia & Australia. More information here and here. Recycling in Europe and ERP	Sony currently uses approximately 20,000 tons recycled plastics annually in various products. Approximately 82% of this is post consumer plastic, with 18% post industrial plastic. Sony has set its reused/recycled materials ratio targets at 12% or higher, by FY 2010. More information. Green Management 2010 recycled plastic target. Sony describes the development of its resource conservation system.

Energy

Support for global mandatory reduction of GHG emissions	Company carbon footprint disclosure	Commitment to reduce own direct GHG emissions	Amount of renewable energy used	Energy efficiency of New Models (double points)
BAD (0)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)
Sony fails to score points because the Tokyo Declaration it co-signed calls for emissions to peak in 10 to 15 years, rather than by 2015, uses a baseline year of 2000 (not 1990) and fails to differentiate between the higher cuts in GHG emissions required by industrialised countries. More information.	Sony discloses third party verified GHG emissions totalling approximately 22.52 million tons in fiscal 2007, of which 2.072 million tons are Sony's own emissions. The increase of some 7% in GHG emissions from 2006 was due primarily to an increase of approximately 8% in CO ₂ generated during product use. More information here, here and here. Methods and approach. Verification is detailed.	Sony is committed to reducing emissions from business sites by 7% or more by 2010, but using emission data from 2000 as baseline. Data and targets could be presented more clearly. More information here and here. A reduction of 6.6% in GHGs was achieved by FY 2007. More information.	In Japan the Sony Group has finalised a contract for 55.45 million kWh annually using the Green Power Certification System, equivalent to around 2.5% of the Group's total power use. As of March 2009, Sony's US renewable energy purchases make up around 21% of its monthly electricity purchases. More information. The use of renewable energy has led to a reduction in global CO ₂ emissions of approximately 92,000 tons in FY2008. In Europe, facilities with over 100 employees use 100% renewable energy. However there is no information on the total percentage of RE used or a commitment and timeline to increase its use globally. More information.	75% of Vaio PCs released between April and August 2009 meet the latest ES requirements. The newly released AC adapter meets ES 2 standards. All new models of TVs released in the US comply with the latest ES standards, and 78% exceed it by 15% or more. However, Sony needs to report on Energy Star compliance for TVs released outside the US. More information.

Criteria on Toxic Chemicals

Greenpeace wants to see electronics companies clean up their act.

Substituting harmful chemicals in the production of electronics will prevent worker exposure to these substances and contamination of communities that neighbour production facilities. Eliminating harmful substances will also prevent leaching/off-gassing of chemicals like brominated flame retardants (BFR) during use, and enable electronic scrap to be safely recycled. The presence of toxic substances in electronics perpetuates the toxic cycle – during reprocessing of electronic waste and by using contaminated secondary materials to make new products.

The issue of toxicity is overarching. Until the use of toxic substances is eliminated, it is impossible to secure 'safe' recycling. For this reason, the points awarded to corporate practice on chemicals are weighted more heavily than criteria on recycling.

Although there are five criteria on both chemicals and waste, the top score on chemicals is 18 points, as double points are awarded for vinyl plastic-free (PVC) and BFR-free models on the market, whereas the top score on e-waste is 15 points.

The criteria on Precautionary Principle and Chemicals Management remain the same. The criterion: BFR-free and PVC-free models on the market, also remains the same and continues to score double points.

The two former criteria: Commitment to eliminating PVC with timeline and Commitment to eliminating all BFRs with timeline, have been merged into one criterion, with the lower level of commitment to PVC or BFR elimination determining the score on this criterion.

A new criterion has been added, namely Phase out of additional substances with timeline(s). The additional substances, many of which have already been identified by the brands as suspect substances for potential future elimination are:

- (1) all phthalates,
- (2) beryllium, including alloys and compounds and
- (3) antimony/antimony compounds

Criteria on e-waste

Greenpeace expects companies to take financial responsibility for dealing with the electronic waste (e-waste) generated by their products, to take back discarded products in all countries with sales of their products and to re-use or recycle them responsibly. Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) provides a feedback loop to the product designers of the end-of-life costs of treating discarded electronic products and thus an incentive to design out those costs.

An additional e-waste criterion has been added and most of the existing criteria have been sharpened, with additional demands. The new e-waste criterion requires the brands to report on the use of recycled plastic content across all products and provide timelines for increasing content.

Criteria on energy

The five new energy criteria address key expectations that Greenpeace has of responsible companies that are serious about tackling climate change. They are:

- (1) Support for global mandatory reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- (2) Disclosure of the company's own GHG emissions plus emissions from two stages of the supply chain;
- (3) Commitment to reduce the company's own GHG emissions with timelines;
- (4) Amount of renewable energy used
- (5) Energy efficiency of new models (companies score double on this criterion)

Click here to see more detailed information on the ranking

Ranking criteria explained

As of the 8th edition of the Guide to Greener Electronics, Greenpeace scores electronics brands on a tightened set of chemicals and e-waste criteria, (which include new criteria) and on new energy criteria.

The ranking criteria reflect the demands of the Toxic Tech campaign to electronics companies. Our two demands are that companies should:

- (1) clean up their products by eliminating hazardous substances; and
- (2) take-back and recycle their products responsibly once they become obsolete.

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

Given the increasing evidence of climate change and the urgency of addressing this issue, Greenpeace has added new energy criteria to encourage electronics companies to:

- (3) improve their corporate policies and practices with respect to Climate and Energy

Ranking regrading: Companies have the opportunity to move towards a greener ranking as the guide will continue to be updated every quarter. 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 electronic 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 electronics 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.

For the latest version greenpeace.org/greenelectronics

In versions 11 and 12 of the Guide, PC manufacturers HP, Dell and Lenovo were served a penalty point for backtracking on their commitment to eliminate vinyl plastic (PVC) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) from their products from the end of 2009. The penalty point on HP has been lifted in this edition. LGE is served a penalty point, also for backtracking on its timeline to eliminate PVC and BFRs in all its products by end of 2010. Dell and Lenovo continue to be penalised in this version.