



LENOVO Ranking = 5.3/10

Lenovo is one of the fastest-moving companies up the ranking, having previously graced bottom position. Reasons for this surge forward are Lenovo providing timelines of 2009 for the elimination of PVC and all brominated flame retardants in its products, as well as improved communication on its waste policy and practice.

Ranking criteria explained

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

- clean up their products by eliminating hazardous substances;
- takeback and recycle their products responsibly once they become obsolete.

The two issues are connected. The use of harmful chemicals in electronics prevents their safe recycling when the products are discarded. Companies score marks out of 30, which are then re-calculated to give a mark out of 10 for simplicity.

LENOVO Overall Score

	BAD (0)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY GOOD (2+)	GOOD (3+)
Precautionary Principle				
Chemicals Management				
Timeline for PVC phaseout				
Timeline for BFR phaseout				
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (companies score double on this criterion)				
Individual producer responsibility				
Voluntary takeback				
Information to individual customers				
Amounts recycled				

LENOVO Detailed Scoring

Chemical Score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle			Lenovo's understanding of the PP could be strengthened by defining what 'appropriate action' means in practice. More information	
Chemicals Management			Lenovo has now posted its Engineering Specification 41A7731 at: More information	
Timeline for PVC phaseout				Lenovo's target for elimination of all uses of PVC by 2009 earns the company top marks. More information
Timeline for BFR phaseout				Lenovo's target for elimination of all BFRs by 2009 earns the company top marks. More information
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (companies score double on this criterion)	No PVC-free or BFR-free models on the market.			

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility			Lenovo's statement in support of IPR is diluted somewhat by the lengthy preamble about the responsibilities of other actors: consumers, retailers etc More Info	
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist			Voluntary takeback does not cover all countries and in many, takeback services are primarily for business customers, not individual consumers. Product recycling programs Includes Australia, US, NZ but Asset Recovery service primarily for business customers. Service for takeback from individual customers Product recycling programs Also for Canada	
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold		Information on takeback is tailored to business customers rather than individual consumers. Contacts for business (5 Jul 06) For US individual customers For individual customers Canada Contact (5 Jul 06) Info for European customers		
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled		Lenovo has provided some figures for recycling rates, but is hampered by many of its business customers selling their e-waste to other companies and the fact that Lenovo's global sales operations is only a year old. More information		

Toxic chemicals criteria

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.

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 (five criteria, double points for PVC – and BFR-free models) are weighted more heavily than criteria on recycling, because until the use of harmful substances is eliminated in products, it is impossible to secure 'safe', toxic-free recycling.

The electronics scorecard ranks companies on:

Chemicals policy and practice (5 criteria)

1. A chemicals policy based on the Precautionary Principle
2. Chemicals Management: supply chain management of chemicals via e.g. banned/restricted substance lists, policy to identify problematic substances for future elimination/substitution
3. Timeline for phasing out all use of vinyl plastic (PVC)
4. Timeline for phasing out all use of brominated flame retardants (not just those banned by EU's RoHS Directive)
5. PVC- and BFR-free models of electronic products on the market.

Policy and practice on Producer Responsibility for taking back their discarded products and recycling (4 criteria)

1. Support for individual (financial) producer responsibility – that producers finance the end-of-life management of their products, by taking back and reusing/recycling their own-brand discarded products.
2. Provides voluntary takeback and recycling in every country where it sells its products, even in the absence of national laws requiring Producer Responsibility for electronic waste.
3. Provides clear information for individual customers on takeback and recycling services in all countries where there are sales of its products.
4. Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled.

Click here to see more detailed information on the ranking

Ranking regrading: Companies have the opportunity to move towards a greener ranking as the guide will be updated every quarter. However penalty points will be deducted from overall scores if Greenpeace finds a company lying, practising 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. The guide does not rank companies on labour standards, energy use or any other issues, but recognises that these are important in the production and use of electronics products.

For the latest version [greenpeace.org/greenelectronics](https://www.greenpeace.org/greenelectronics)