



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.

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.

Where two companies score the same number of total points, the company with the higher score on the chemicals criteria will be ranked higher.

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)

LENOVO Ranking = 8/10

Lenovo is one of the fastest-moving companies up the ranking, having graced bottom position when the Guide was first launched in August 2006. Reasons for this surge forward are improvements in Lenovo's position on Precautionary Principle and Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) as well as providing global takeback and recycling services wherever its products are sold – the first company to achieve this goal. However, Lenovo still fails to score any points for providing models on the market that are free of PVC and BFRs.

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 scores top marks by improving its definition of Precautionary Principle. More information.
Chemicals Management				Lenovo has now updated its Engineering Specification 41A7731 to reflect its commitments on eliminating PVC and BFRs. 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)	Although Lenovo has added Product Environmental Data Sheets, no products are entirely free of PVC or BFRs. More information.			

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility				Lenovo earns an extra point for strengthening their IPR position and for their support for legislation. More information.
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist				Voluntary takeback is now offered in all countries where Lenovo has sales of its products. In December 2006, Lenovo announced in China, free take back and recycling of Legend and Lenovo branded PCs, laptops, monitors and servers, and ThinkPad laptops, ThinkCentre PCs, and ThinkVision Monitors, whether produced by Lenovo or IBM. Product recycling programs. More information.
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold				Lenovo now provides takeback information to both business and individual customers in all the countries where the company's products are sold. Product recycling programs.
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled				Lenovo now provides figures of e-waste recycled based on past sales, 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.