



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)

TOSHIBA Ranking = 4.3/10

Toshiba has improved its ranking by providing timelines for eliminating PVC and BFRs in their PCs, though not their entire product portfolio. The company offers laptop models with circuit boards free from brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and EcoMark-certified products without polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

The company loses points for its lack of support for Individual Producer Responsibility and for the poor information it provides to customers regarding what to do with the products they discard

TOSHIBA 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				

TOSHIBA Detailed Scoring

Chemical Score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle		No specific reference to precautionary principle but they do state that they 'try to avoid the use or emission of any substance that, although not prohibited... is recognised as a threat to the environment'. Toshiba also signs onto the UN Global Compact, which refers to the precautionary approach. More information here and here.		
Chemicals Management				Toshiba has Green Procurement Guidelines for suppliers and ranks suppliers. More information.
Timeline for PVC phaseout			Toshiba is committed to phasing out all remaining uses of PVC from their notebook PCs by 2009, but PCs are just one part of Toshiba's large product portfolio. More information.	
Timeline for BFR phaseout			Toshiba is committed to phasing out all remaining uses of BFRs from their notebook PCs by 2009, but PCs are just one part of Toshiba's large product portfolio. More information.	
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (companies score double on this criterion)		Toshiba make a range of notebook PCs including the 'Dynabook', 'Satellite', 'Tecra' and 'Portege' models which have circuit boards free of halogens and antimony. Toshiba also make EcoMark-certified products, some of which do not contain PVC. It is a shame that the information on PCs with halogen-free and antimony-free circuit boards is ONLY in Japanese as this does not help build GLOBAL consumer demand for cleaner electronics. More information here and here in Japanese.		

TOSHIBA Detailed Scoring

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility	No reference to Toshiba's support for individual producer responsibility.			
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist		North American customers can trade in various brand products and recycle all Toshiba notebooks for free. More information here and here. Information on the TERRE program in Canada. European Information. Japanese Information.		
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold		Comprehensive information is provided for customers in the US and Canada, however, information in Europe is limited. More information here, here and here.		
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled		Toshiba provides information on recycling of home appliances and PCs in Japan, but only in Japan. More information.		