



ACER Ranking = 4.5/10

Acer rises from 13th to 12th place, with the same score of 4.5 points.

Acer scores most points for its efforts on toxic chemicals. It is proactively supporting improvements to the revised EU RoHS Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances in electronics); specifically, a methodology for further restrictions of hazardous substances, and an immediate ban on brominated flame retardants (BFRs), chlorinated flame retardants (CFRs) and PVC vinyl plastic, for which it scores maximum points. Acer also scores points for putting on the market 16 models of monitors with many parts that are almost free of PVC vinyl plastic and BFRs, except for the power cord. In the last two versions of the ranking, the company has not been penalised for backtracking on its commitment to eliminate PVC and BFRs in all products by the end of 2009; as assurance that this timeline will be met, Acer states that it plans to launch four new PVC and BFR-free models before the end of 2009. Acer now needs to transition all its products to using no BFRs or PVC. The company is also rewarded for its commitment to phase out all phthalates, beryllium and compounds and antimony and compounds in all new products by 2012.

Acer scores poorly on e-waste, even though it is reporting a recycling rate of 29.8 percent based on past sales, for desktops and notebooks, but only those sold and recycled in Taiwan. Acer needs to clarify its support, and do more lobbying, for Individual Producer Responsibility, extend its voluntary take-back and recycling programme beyond India, and start sourcing recycled plastic.

Acer does a little better on the energy criteria, supporting global cuts in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of at least 50 percent by 2050 and 30 percent by 2020 from industrialised countries (compared to 1990 levels) and calling for global GHG emissions to peak by 2015. Acer needs to set a target for absolute cuts in GHG emissions and start sourcing renewable energy. On energy efficiency, Acer reports that, at present, 55 percent of Acer notebook computers and 29 percent of desktop PCs meet the new Energy Star v.5 standard; previously, 71.3 percent of Acer notebook PCs, 38.5 percent of desktop PCs met the old ES v.4.

ACER Overall Score

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

ACER Detailed Scoring

Chemicals

Precautionary Principle and support for revision of RoHS Directive.	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+)	GOOD (3+)	GOOD (3+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)
Acer's statement on the precautionary principle recognises the need for preventive action, even if scientific evidence is not conclusive. More information here and here. Acer is proactively supporting a ban on organo - chlorine and bromine substances in the revision of RoHS 2.0 and scores maximum points. More information. Acer has provided evidence of actively promoting this position to EU decision makers.	Top marks for describing the mechanisms for identifying future substances of concern. Supply chain management. HSF (Hazardous Substance Free) Planning.	Acer pledges to prohibit PVC and BFRs from use in new products by 2009, in its Hazardous Substance Free (HSF) plan. As assurance that this timeline will be met, Acer states that it plans to launch new PVC and BFR-free models – AS3811T, AS3811TG, AS3811TZG and AS3411 – before the end of 2009. Progress in implementing HSF plan has been updated here, here and here. Technology assessment results.	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 2009. More information.	Since October 2008, Acer has launched 16 models of LCD monitor whose BFR/PVC-free parts include product casing, printed circuit board laminates, connectors and internal cables, but not the power cord. The circuit board laminates of four models of projectors are BFR/PVC free. Acer plans to launch four new models of PVC- and BFR-free notebooks before the end of 2009. 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 BAD (1+)	BAD (0)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	BAD (0)
Acer supports and actively strives for IPR. To score more points, Acer needs to clarify that support for IPR means requirement for differentiated/ individualised financing for own-brand real end-of-life costs (e.g. no longer collective financing such as market share but instead more real and individualised financing such as return share) for WEEE. Acer also needs to provide examples of where it is doing advocacy and details of operationalisation of IPR. More information.	Acer provides take-back services where required to do so by national EPR laws. The only exception seems to be India where Acer now takes back and recycles for free. 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. To score more points, Acer needs to extend the coverage of its take-back services. More information.	Recycling information provided for EU, Japanese, Taiwanese and Indian customers only. Information for US customers needs to be more relevant. In the EU, some of the links provided navigate to trade associations (e.g. France, Czech Republic) and not to recyclers. More information. Europe. Taiwan. Japan. India.	Acer reports a recycling rate of 29.8% in 2007 based on sales 6 years ago, for desktops and notebooks sold and recycled in Taiwan. However, the data is only for Taiwan and relies on many assumptions. More information.	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. More information.

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)
GOOD (3+)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)	BAD (0)	BAD (0)	PARTIALLY BAD (1+)
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 gets full marks for supporting calls for global GHG emissions to peak by 2015. More information.	Acer reports on its GHG emissions from its global operations that in total were 47,644 CO ₂ equivalent tonnes in 2007 and 45,959 CO ₂ -e tonnes in 2008. Scope 1 and 2 emissions are reported, as well as business travel in Scope 3. Acer plans to extend this reporting to its supply chain, through the Supply Chain Leadership Collaboration (SCLC) of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). To score more points, Acer needs to provide external verification of its calculations. More information.	Acer expects to finalise its short-term, mid-term and long term GHG reduction targets in 2009. This is delayed as previously Acer expected to finalise its mid- and long-term GHG reduction targets in winter 2008. More information.	A global survey was conducted in 2008 on purchasing renewable energy. Acer is also assessing the feasibility of using renewable energy such as solar power and wind power in its global operations. Acer needs to update its website with the results of this survey and set targets for its use of renewable energy. More information.	51% of notebook computers and 28.7% of desktop PCs meet the new Energy Star v.5 standard. 72% of Acer monitors meet the latest ES standard. Acer has recently updated these figures. Computers need to leave the factory with the highest settings for energy efficiency. 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 first criterion has been sharpened to require companies not only to have a chemicals policy underpinned by the Precautionary Principle, but also to support a revision of the RoHS Directive that bans further harmful substances, specifically BFRs, chlorinated flame retardants (CFRs) and PVC. The criterion on Chemicals Management remains 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. In this edition the criteria for the Precautionary Principle has been made more challenging.

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 was lifted in version 13; LGE was served a penalty point for backtracking on its timeline to eliminate PVC and BFRs in all its products by end of 2010. LGE, Dell and Lenovo continue to be penalised in this version and are joined by Samsung, who is served a penalty point for backtracking on its commitment to eliminate BFRs in new models of all products by January 2010 and PVC by end of 2010.