



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 its products are sold, 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 is updated every quarter. However penalty points are 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.

Ranking guide addition: 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.

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

A penalty point has been deducted from Nokia's overall score for corporate misbehaviour as a result of Greenpeace testing of the companies' takeback practice in the Philippines, Thailand, Russia, Argentina and India.

ACER Ranking = 5.7/10

Acer again drops one place to 13th position because its score has not altered since the last ranking and it has therefore been overtaken by other companies. It scores top marks on chemicals, but has yet to start selling products free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and brominated flame retardants (BFRs).

Acer has improved communication of its waste policy and practice, but still needs to do more on providing voluntary take-back and recycling of its end-of-life products. Acer has yet to report on recycling rates as a percentage of past sales.

ACER 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				

ACER Detailed Scoring

Chemical Score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle				Acer scores a 'yes' on its statement on the precautionary principle that recognises the need for preventive action, even if scientific evidence is not conclusive. Precautionary principle.
Chemicals Management				Top marks for describing the mechanisms for identifying future substances of concern. Supply chain management HSF Plan.
Timeline for PVC phaseout				Acer pledges to prohibit PVC from use in new products by 2009, in their Hazardous Substances Free (HSF) plan. HSF implementation report.
Timeline for BFR phaseout				Acer pledges to prohibit BFR from use in new products by 2009, in their Hazardous Substances Free (HSF) plan. HSF implementation report.
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (companies score double on this criterion)	No PVC-free or BFR-free models on the market. More information.			

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility				Acer scores top marks for supporting IPR. More information.
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist		Acer provides takeback services where required to do so by national EPR laws. Exceptions are US where Acer provides contacts to SVTC and India, where Acer now takes back and recycles for free. More information.		
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold		Recycling information provided for EU, Japanese, Taiwanese, Indian and US customers only. More information here, here, here and here for India. Terms and conditions.		
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled	No information on the amounts of e-waste collected and recycled.			