



Acer

Acer is one of two Taiwanese manufacturers in this year's Guide. The company sells smartphones, tablets, PCs and other products around the world. Acer has room for improvement in all three impact areas assessed. Acer has begun to measure emissions beyond just its own operations; however, to really lead on energy, the company must set ambitious targets to power its own operations and the manufacturing of its products with renewable energy. On designing products to reduce overall resource consumption, here too, Acer needs to set more ambitious targets to use more than just recycled plastic in a few product lines. Acer has unfortunately stalled in meeting its commitment to phase out PVC and BFRs from all products, and has yet to set any targets to manage supply chain chemicals applied to manufacturing processes in an effort to protect worker health and safety.

Renewable Energy & Climate Change

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TRANSPARENCY. Acer reports energy consumption data for its own operations in its sustainability report, including information about “green electricity”; however, Acer does not disclose what portion of this energy is actual renewables versus credits.¹ Acer reports its scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions, as well as some scope 3 emissions for 13 main product lines.² Acer participates in CDP's supply chain program and requests that its suppliers also report to CDP; however, unlike other companies, Acer does not make its CDP reports public. Acer only published product carbon footprint data for one laptop. Acer does not disclose its manufacturing suppliers.

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COMMITMENT. Acer has set a GHG emission reduction target of 60% by 2020, compared to 2009 baseline. This target does not appear to include its supply chain. Acer has also set a long-term goal to increase “green electricity” use by 50% with no deadline, and the majority of Acer's green electricity use thus far is via the purchase of renewable energy credits. In terms of supplier engagement, Acer has set a goal that 80% of its suppliers will set carbon reduction targets with CDP in 2017.

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PERFORMANCE. Acer reported its 2016 GHG emissions to be 53% less than its 2009 baseline (pg 77, 2016/17 CSR report). Acer achieved these reductions largely through energy efficiency programs and the purchasing of RECs. Taiwan is the only region Acer reports to use energy from solar and wind sources. For Acer's operations in the US, Canada, Germany, Spain, Malaysia and Thailand Acer purchases RECs. Acer reported that in 2016, 86% of its suppliers reported scope 1 and 2 emissions data to CDP, and that 75% of its suppliers had set emission reduction targets, though no details are available.

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ADVOCACY. Acer signed the American Business Act on Climate Pledge in the lead up to the Paris Agreement to support a strong global agreement.³

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| Sustainable Design & Resource Reduction | C- |
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| <p>TRANSPARENCY. Acer reports that a limited number of its products use post-consumer recycled plastic and also reports on over volume of recycled plastic used in 2016.⁴ Acer publishes material composition data for its products. Acer does publish results of its take-back efforts in Taiwan, US and Japan on an annual basis (pg 75-76). Acer discloses its smelters for 3TG minerals, as well as its due diligence efforts to avoid sourcing these minerals from conflict sources.⁵</p> | C |
| <p>COMMITMENT. Acer has no specific commitments to increase the use of recycled materials in its products, just that it “actively strive[s] to use post-consumer recycled plastics (PCR) in products.”⁶ In 2017, Acer plans to launch a new case that is 40% smaller than old cases, thus reducing the amount of metal and plastic used, though details are unclear.</p> | D |
| <p>PERFORMANCE: CIRCULAR PRODUCTION. Acer’s efforts to reduce resource consumption are very limited. The company uses some amount of PCR plastic in two product lines: the All-in-One series and Display Unit models. Acer’s take-back efforts seem to extend beyond regions where required by law.⁷</p> | C |
| <p>PERFORMANCE: PRODUCT LIFE EXTENSION. Service manuals for many Acer products are made publicly available and spare parts can also be purchased for some products.⁸</p> | C |
| <p>ADVOCACY. No evidence found of positive or negative advocacy.</p> | - |

| Hazardous Chemical Elimination: Products & Supply Chain | D |
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| <p>TRANSPARENCY. Acer does not publish its supplier list. Acer does publish a basic restricted substances list which includes threshold levels, and Acer also publishes a list of substances suppliers are expected to disclose to Acer if they are using them.⁹ Acer does not publish any information about process chemicals management at the moment, but the company has set this issue as a target for 2017 and is working this year on drafting a list of restricted process chemicals for suppliers making Acer products.¹⁰</p> | D |
| <p>COMMITMENT. Acer has yet to deliver on its 2009 commitment to advance the production of notebooks, desktops, and smartphones that do not include PVC and BFRs. Now, on its website, Acer acknowledges it has a Hazardous Substance Free (HSF) plan for PVC, BFR and phthalates. However, this plan does not include a timeline or roadmap.¹¹ Acer makes no reference to commitments to protect workers from harmful exposures to chemicals.</p> | D |
| <p>PERFORMANCE. So far, Acer has phased out PVC and BFRs from several product lines with the exception of power cords and other accessories. There are no plans with timelines for when this work will extend to all products. Beyond following the legal requirements of RoHS and REACH, Acer has set restrictions on just BFRs and phthalates. For other chemicals of concern including PVC, beryllium, antimony, and arsenic Acer asks that suppliers disclose to Acer that they are being used.¹² Acer has not set any public restrictions to manage workplace chemicals in its supply chain.</p> | D |
| <p>ADVOCACY. No evidence found of positive or negative advocacy.</p> | - |

ENDNOTES

- 1 https://static.acer.com/up/Resource/AcerGroup/Sustainability/Reports_Certificates/20170614/2016_corporate_responsibility_report.pdf
p. 81.
- 2 Page 78
- 3 <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/12/prweb13109103.htm>
- 4 <https://www.acer-group.com/ag/en/TW/content/our-products-environment>
- 5 http://static.acer.com/up/Resource/AcerGroup/Sustainability/Supply_Chain/Our_Supply_Chain/20170627/responsible-sourcing-minerals_conflict_minerals_2016.pdf
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