



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 have 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/greenerelectronics](https://www.greenpeace.org/greenerelectronics)

A penalty point has been deducted from Nokia and Motorola'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.

PHILIPS Ranking = 2/10

Philips, another newcomer to the ranking Guide joins at 17th position out of 18. Philips scores points for its chemicals management and for committing to the precautionary principle, although its understanding of this principle needed to be clarified.

Philips has committed to eliminate brominated flame retardants from its product range but, so far, without a timeline. No such commitment is made for eliminating PVC. Philips scores zero on all the e-waste criteria, so there is plenty of scope for improvement in the future.

PHILIPS 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				

PHILIPS Detailed Scoring

Chemical Score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle			Philips' understanding of the Precautionary Principle fails to embrace the need to take preventative action before full scientific certainty of a suspect chemical's potential to cause harm. More information. Environmental Policy.	
Chemicals Management				Philips scores top marks for providing Product and Process Specs, criteria for identifying 'future substances' for elimination and examples, namely 'reported' substances. More information. Restricted substances in Products list. Restricted substances in Processes list. Criteria for identifying 'future' substances for phase out. List of "reported" substances.
Timeline for PVC phaseout	Philips have phased out PVC from packaging and will continue to investigate options to replace PVC in products, but fail to commit to eliminating PVC altogether. More information.			
Timeline for BFR phaseout		Philips has already eliminated BFRs in TV housings and will transition to alternatives to BFRs. More information. Lists of Restricted & Relevant Substances here and here.		
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models (companies score double on this criterion)	Green Flagship products are listed but there are no examples of BFR free or PVC free products. More information. See Sustainability Report 2006, p 72 – 73.			

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility	Philips favour the "visible fee for take back and recycling, which consumers pay at the time of purchase". More information. Sustainability report 2006 (p.55).			
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist	No voluntary takeback offered.			
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold	Philips only gives customer information on takeback within the EU. More information.			
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled	No figures on post consumer waste collected & recycled are given. More information.			