

# Electronics Recycling Report Card

## Grading for: **Acer**



Acer is a Taiwanese computer company that has grown considerably in the last two years, and now has the third largest market share of computer sales in the US (over 11%) behind HP and Dell. Globally, they are in 2nd or 3rd place (depending on the quarter). Acer owns the Gateway, eMachine and Packard Bell brands, as well as producing Acer branded products.

Category	Possible Points	Points Earned	Details
<b>Scope of U.S. takeback recycling program</b>			
<b>Free, convenient, national takeback program</b> Does the company offer free convenient national takeback and recycling of their branded products for individual consumers? - Convenience requires ongoing physical collection sites as well as mailback options. - Evaluates efforts made in states with no e-waste laws or laws with weak requirements	13	1	Has no sites in states without strong laws and mailback program charges for shipping.
<b>Significant collection volumes</b> Does takeback program have significant collection volumes, and does the company have high volume even in states where the law does not require it?	16	3	Modest volumes - 5.2 m. lbs. in the US and "on pace to increase recycling to 10 m. lbs in 2010," of which 1 m. lbs. will be voluntary.
<b>Transparent reporting</b> Is the company transparent in reporting on collection volumes, including where they are coming from?	7	2.5	Estimates that in 2010 10 million pounds of e-waste will be recycled in the US, including approximately 1 million pounds from states without recycling legislation.
<b>Free not just for consumers</b> Does company offer free national takeback recycling for other customers – not just individual consumers?	1	0	Directs businesses to get a quote from asset recovery program
<b>Takeback other brands</b> Does program take products from other brands for free or a nominal charge?	1	0	No
<b>Encourage reuse</b> Does the program encourage responsible reuse of electronic equipment and parts?	4	1	Recycling specifications state a preference for reuse when not prohibited by contract.
SUBTOTAL	42	7.5	
<b>Does program provide responsible recycling?</b>			
<b>Are recycling vendors e-Stewards?</b> Does company only use e-Stewards as vendors for	22	0	Acer does not currently work with recyclers who are e-Stewards.

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all of its consumer recycling, including trade in/buy back programs? For more info, see <a href="http://www.e-stewards.org">www.e-stewards.org</a>			
<b>Other public commitment to responsible recycling</b> If the company is not using e-Stewards, does it have another public commitment to not export toxic e-waste* to developing countries, use prison labor or landfill/incinerate toxic e-waste?*	Up to 5 of the 22 pts above	1	Acer gets 1 point for a clear statement that recyclers can't use prison labor. But despite policies stated on the website, their vendor requirements reveal that they allow specified toxic e-waste to be shipped to developing countries as long as the countries "legally accept them." (And they don't even address certain toxic components, like mercury and beryllium.) This is a good example of why we ask to see vendor requirements, since it's not until we see this level of detail that we can know what the policies really mean.
<b>Publish vendor requirements</b> Does company publish its full recycling standards (vendor requirements) on company website?	4	3	Acer does publish vendor requirements, which are fairly specific but vague in a few areas.
<b>Disclosure of recycling vendors</b> Does company disclose all of the electronics recycling and refurbishing vendors, used by the company and its trade-in partners, on company website?	6	6	Acer discloses its vendor - GEEP.
<b>Disclosure on business takeback streams</b> Do the four disclosures above apply to business streams? While this report card is aimed at consumer streams, company takeback programs for businesses (asset recovery, business trade-ins, lease returns, etc.) comprise a huge volume of some manufacturers' takeback programs.	4	1	Discloses recycling partner GEEP Inc. for business asset recovery.
SUBTOTAL	36	11	
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Disclosure of what is closed loop recycled</b> Does company disclose information about what streams from its takeback program are closed loop recycled or make a commitment to move in this direction? Closed loop recycling means recycling material streams back into other products the company makes or products of equal value (not down-cycling).	2	1	Only do closed loop recycling for business asset recovery streams.
<b>Disclosure of how much is closed loop recycled</b> Does company report on the volume of material	5	1	Some volume exists in the electronics equipment business

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that is recycled into closed loop recycling?			stream, but they do not provide any data on total volumes.
<b>Recycling info easy to find?</b> Is it easy to find recycling information on company website?	3	1	Found under Service and Support section's additional resources.
<b>Recyclable Packaging</b> Does the company ship products using packaging made from materials that are typically easily recyclable for most U.S. households (cardboard, but not Styrofoam/ polystyrene)?	2	1	Mentioned in European section of Corporate Sustainability Report, but unclear if this policy applies in the US.
SUBTOTAL	12	4	
<b>Public policy</b>			
Does company have a statement in support of strong state legislation for producer takeback, with drivers for manufacturers to collect high volumes, and does company actively support these bills in the States?	5	3	"Supports legislation and performance expectations that are based on the reasonably convenient collaborative methods" but that's not very specific.
Does the company have a statement of support for federal legislation to ban the export of toxic electronic waste to developing nations and does the company actively support it?	5	0	No information provided.
SUBTOTAL	10	3	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25.5</b>	

Primary webpage on recycling: <https://usspringpromo.acer.com/Recycle/Index.aspx>

\* Toxic e-waste means electronic equipment, parts, and materials destined for recycling or disposal but not for direct reuse, that contain, consist of, or are derived from:

- Cadmium-, lead- or beryllium-containing circuit boards;
- Cathode ray tubes (CRTs);
- CRT glass (processed and unprocessed);
- Batteries containing lead, mercury, and/or cadmium and/or are flammable;
- Components, lamps and devices containing mercury-, beryllium- and Polychlorinated Biphenyl antimony, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, thallium, beryllium, arsenic, or selenium; and/or
- Non-working or untested parts and whole equipment or devices exported for repair or reuse

For an explanation of the questions and grading, see the [explanation of grading](#)