

# Electronics Recycling Report Card

## Grading for: **ASUS**



ASUS is a Taiwanese computer manufacturer, whose market share is growing in the US. They are one of the companies earning full points for responsible recycling, for only using a recycler who is an e-Steward.

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	2	ASUS provides takeback via a mailback program. They have no collection sites.
<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	0	Asus has no disclosure on the volumes coming back in their program, even at the national level. No points for volumes.
<b>Transparent reporting</b> Is the company transparent in reporting on collection volumes, including where they are coming from?	7	2	ASUS only reports on global volumes - 3750 tons in 2008. They are one of the few companies who express their takeback as a per cent of sales (8% for 2008), which we think is an important metric. But lack of detail on the U.S. takeback volumes, and state breakdowns, makes it impossible to evaluate what effort Asus is making in the U.S.
<b>Free not just for consumers</b> Does company offer free national takeback recycling for other customers – not just individual consumers?	1	1	ASUS's program is available to small business and institutions, in addition to consumers.
<b>Takeback other brands</b> Does program take products from other brands for free or a nominal charge?	1	1	ASUS will take back other company products for a fee.
<b>Encourage reuse</b> Does the program encourage responsible reuse of electronic equipment and parts?	4	1	ASUS states that any product with reuse potential goes to a local foundation that refurbishes computers for local non profits. Their vendor requirements specify maximizing reuse opportunities.
SUBTOTAL	42	7	

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<b>Does program provide responsible recycling?</b>			
<b>Are recycling vendors e-Stewards?</b> Does company only use e-Stewards as vendors for 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>	22	22	ASUS gets full points for using an e-Steward vendor for its takeback program, both for consumers and for its business asset recovery operation.
<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	0	E-steward full credit already.
<b>Publish vendor requirements</b> Does company publish its full recycling standards (vendor requirements) on company website?	4	2	They publish a simple form of vendor requirements, but they are not very detailed. Partial credit.
<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	ASUS works with Metech Recycling, which operates the "RecycleAPC" interface.
<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	4	Works with E-Steward Metech for business streams.
SUBTOTAL	36	34	
<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	0	Nothing specific on closed loop recycling.
<b>Disclosure of how much is closed loop recycled</b> Does company report on the volume of material that is recycled into closed loop recycling?	5	0	No information provided.
<b>Recycling info easy to find?</b> Is it easy to find recycling information on company	3	2	Green Asus on bottom of home page, but then 4 more clicks to find

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website?			recycling.
<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	0	Will arrange for recycling of packaging, but not necessarily using materials that are typically easy for consumers to recycle.
SUBTOTAL	12	2	
<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	1	Supports the concept of producer responsibility but no details on the policy
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	5	"In support of nations enacting and enforcing laws that halt the export of toxic electronic wastes to developing nations in violation of international law."
SUBTOTAL	10	6	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>49</b>	

Primary webpage on recycling: <http://csr.asus.com/english/index.aspx#112>

\* 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](#)