

Electronics Recycling Report Card

Grading for: **BROTHER**



Summary:

Brother is in fifth place for market share for printer companies in the U.S. But they have no takeback program.

Category	Possible Points	Points Earned	Details
Scope of U.S. takeback recycling program	42		
Free, convenient, national takeback program 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	0	Brother does not have a national takeback program for equipment, and only provides takeback in the states that legally require it.
Significant collection volumes 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	Not reported.
Transparent reporting Is the company transparent in reporting on collection volumes, including where they are coming from?	7	0	No meaningful reporting on volumes.
Free not just for consumers Does company offer free national takeback recycling for other customers – not just individual consumers?	1	0	No program
Takeback other brands Does program take products from other brands for free or a nominal charge?	1	0	No.
Encourage reuse Does the program encourage responsible reuse of electronic equipment and parts?	4	0	Promotion and education are done in the UK and Japan, but no information is provided about the US.
SUBTOTAL	42	0	
Does program provide responsible recycling?	36		
Are recycling vendors e-Stewards? Does company only use e-Stewards as vendors for all of its consumer recycling, including trade	22	0	In the three states where Brother has selected a vendor to comply with state recycling laws, Brother

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in/buy back programs? For more info, see www.e-stewards.org			works with Sims recycling, who is not an e-Steward. They have no national takeback program.
Other public commitment to responsible recycling 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	Brother says they will comply with applicable laws, and where no laws exist they will adhere to responsible standards, but there is no information provided as to what those standards are.
Publish vendor requirements Does company publish its full recycling standards (vendor requirements) on company website?	4	0	No vendor requirements published. They only provide takeback where states legally require it.
Disclosure of recycling vendors Does company disclose all of the electronics recycling and refurbishing vendors, used by the company and its trade-in partners, on company website?	6	1	In three states (where the law requires takeback) they work with Sims Recycling.
Disclosure on business takeback streams 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	0	No information provided.
SUBTOTAL	36	2	
Other	12		
Disclosure of what is closed loop recycled 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	No specifics on what happens with recycled equipment.
Disclosure of how much is closed loop recycled Does company report on the volume of material that is recycled into closed loop recycling?	5	0	No volumes reported.
Recycling info easy to find? Is it easy to find recycling information on company website?	3	2	"Brother Earth" logo is in the lower left corner of the home page, multiple clicks to get to recycling details.

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Recyclable Packaging 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	Brother does not provide these details, but they do say they are committed to reducing product packaging and waste as much as possible.
SUBTOTAL	12	2	
Public policy	10		
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	0	No policy statements made.
Does the company have a statement of support for federal legislation to ban the export of toxic electronic waste to developing nations?	5	0	No policy statements made.
SUBTOTAL	10	0	
TOTAL SCORE	100	4	

Primary webpage on recycling: <http://www.brother-usa.com/>

* 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](#)