

Electronics Recycling Report Card

Grading for: **Lenovo**



Lenovo is a Chinese company that bought IBM's ThinkPad division.

Category	Possible Points	Points Earned	Details
Scope of U.S. takeback recycling program			
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	1	Lenovo offers free takeback only through a mailback service.
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	Less than 700,000 lbs. collected in consumer returns in the US in 2009. Less than 500 lbs. collected in Texas, a state with a weak law.
Transparent reporting Is the company transparent in reporting on collection volumes, including where they are coming from?	7	4	Reports overall volume in 2008 & as percentage of weight shipped in 2008 (3.88%) & percentage of weight shipped in 2001 (6.39%)
Free not just for consumers Does company offer free national takeback recycling for other customers – not just individual consumers?	1	0	No information available.
Takeback other brands Does program take products from other brands for free or a nominal charge?	1	1	Does not offer to takeback brands other than Lenovo & ThinkPad, which it owns.
Encourage reuse Does the program encourage responsible reuse of electronic equipment and parts?	4	3	Contracts with brokers and recyclers include reuse provisions.
SUBTOTAL	42	9	
Does program provide responsible recycling?			
Are recycling vendors e-Stewards? Does company only use e-Stewards as vendors for all of its consumer recycling, including trade in/buy back programs? For more info, see www.e-stewards.org	22	0	Lenovo says that one of its consumer recycling vendors has received the weak R2 certification and does not state that any are E-Stewards.

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<p>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?*</p>	Up to 5 of the 22 pts above	1	Lenovo's statement on responsible recycling makes it clear they won't allow recyclers to use prison labor, but it's far too vague on the export topic. Recyclers must have "acceptable controls" (not defined) to ensure no exporting of "hazardous waste" (not defined, and if the the legal US definition exempts most e-waste). While Lenovo says they encourage recyclers to get either R2 or eStewards certification, they are only working with R2 vendors (and R2 allows exports to developing nations). Lenovo states on its site that it "takes no responsibility or liability" for the service provided by its vendor, AERCCR.
<p>Publish vendor requirements Does company publish its full recycling standards (vendor requirements) on company website?</p>	4	1	Only partial vendor requirements available.
<p>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?</p>	6	4	Unclear if Lenovo lists all partners. Lists AERCCR and AER Worldwide.
<p>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.</p>	4	0	Has its own asset recovery service, but no details on responsible recycling for the program.
SUBTOTAL	36	6	
Other			
<p>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).</p>	2	2	Lenovo says that some parts, metals and plastics are put back into information technology and other products.

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Disclosure of how much is closed loop recycled Does company report on the volume of material that is recycled into closed loop recycling?	5	1	Lenovo says it has used over 21 million pounds (net) of post-consumer recycled plastic from both end of life IT and non-IT sources in the manufacture of new Lenovo products since early 2007, However, Lenovo does not disclose how much of the plastic came from end of life electronics.
Recycling info easy to find? Is it easy to find recycling information on company website?	3	1	Link for "recycling" on home page but you have to click 5 times and get redirected to a different website. As you move from page to page, the links get harder to find and this can be confusing.
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	1	States: "Our packaging is designed to be recycled locally by the end user in most municipal and commercial waste and recycling streams."
SUBTOTAL	12	5	
Public policy			
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	2	Lenovo supports legislation assigning financial responsibility for end-of-life management to the individual producers with mention of the benefits of such legislation, but with no specifics on performance goals or actions it has taken in support of 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	0	No information.
SUBTOTAL	10	2	
TOTAL SCORE	100	22	

Primary webpage on recycling: http://www.lenovo.com/social_responsibility/us/en/sustainability/ptb_us.html

* 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](#)