

# Electronics Recycling Report Card

## Grading for: **SAMSUNG**



**High score but also a Dishonorable Mention:** Samsung has made tremendous strides with its takeback program over the last two years and has earned a B on this year's report card. However, this report must also include a Dishonorable Mention because of serious concerns about Samsung's occupational health record at manufacturing plants in Korea, where many young workers have been diagnosed with blood cancers and several have already died. ETBC does not want Samsung's grade on this U.S. Recycling scorecard to be misconstrued as an overall evaluation of Samsung's corporate performance on the range of environmental health concerns. See \*\* below for more information.

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	4	Samsung has a free takeback program with 281 collection sites in the states with weak or no laws, and 861 nationwide.
<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	6	Significant and growing volume, including in voluntary states.
<b>Transparent reporting</b> Is the company transparent in reporting on collection volumes, including where they are coming from?	7	5	Discloses amounts collected in mandatory and voluntary programs on a cumulative basis, and provides state specific volumes for some states. Samsung provides more transparency on volumes than most companies.
<b>Free not just for consumers</b> Does company offer free national takeback recycling for other customers – not just individual consumers?	1	0	Samsung only references consumers using their programs.
<b>Takeback other brands</b> Does program take products from other brands for free or a nominal charge?	1	1	Will take back other brands but a nominal fee may apply.
<b>Encourage reuse</b> Does the program encourage responsible reuse of electronic equipment and parts?	4	1	General requirements for vendors to promote reuse, but no specific metrics reported on reuse.
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>17</b>	

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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	16	Samsung uses e-Steward vendors for its recycling program, but its trade in program uses "AnythingIT" who is not an e-Steward.
<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	
<b>Publish vendor requirements</b> Does company publish its full recycling standards (vendor requirements) on company website?	4	1	Samsung prints some guidelines on the website, but not actual detailed requirements. 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	4	Samsung discloses recycling vendor, but for trade in program, the recycler behind AnythingIT is not named. Partial credit.
<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	0	No.
SUBTOTAL	36	21	
<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	Samsung discloses that its recyclers that do glass-to-glass recycling, but does not specify if they use any of the recycled glass in their branded electronics.
<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 volumes on closed loop
<b>Recycling info easy to find?</b> Is it easy to find recycling information on company	3	0	4 clicks and then the link was broken.

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website?			
<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	They use styrofoam packaging, which most people have a hard time recycling.
SUBTOTAL	12	1	
<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	Samsung supports producer responsibility and the concept of targets, although they have not been active with the state laws.
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	Samsung supports federal legislation prohibiting export of toxic ewaste to developing nations, and has indicated support for HR 6252.
SUBTOTAL	10	8	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	

Primary webpage on recycling:

[http://www.samsung.com/us/aboutsamsung/citizenship/usactivities\\_environment\\_samsungrecyclingdirect.html](http://www.samsung.com/us/aboutsamsung/citizenship/usactivities_environment_samsungrecyclingdirect.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

\*\* Samsung denies responsibility for these diseases claiming they are not work related. We have long known that electronics manufacturing involves over 1000 highly toxic chemicals and that electronics manufacturing work is a risk factor for several types of cancer and other chronic health problems. The growing cancer "cluster" at Samsung is a serious occupational health concern and Samsung continues to deny all responsibility.

With increasingly globalized production and consumption, consumers must take a holistic approach to corporate performance in evaluating environmental and health milestones. We encourage the company to rectify its occupational health problems before our next report card is due. For further information, see:

- Story in Hankoreh, a Korean Daily Newspaper: <http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/ENGISSUE/74/442507.html>

- Science Blog on American Public Health Association Award

[http://scienceblogs.com/thepumphandle/2010/08/apha\\_ohs\\_section\\_awards\\_honor.php](http://scienceblogs.com/thepumphandle/2010/08/apha_ohs_section_awards_honor.php)

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