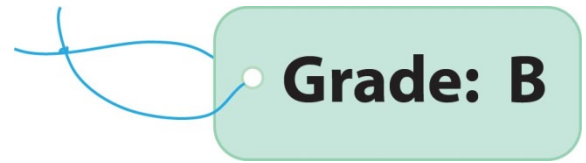


# Electronics Retailers Recycling Report Card for: **Best Buy**



Best Buy has a very robust recycling program. They are the only retailer to take back for recycling ALL the categories of products we reviewed, including TVs, monitors and printers. (Many just take back the small, high value products.) As a manufacturer of its own house label products (Insignia), Best Buy is mandated under some state laws to provide recycling of some products to consumers in some states, so they have had a head start on recycling. But BB has gone far beyond its legal obligation, recycling in their stores all states, and all products. Plus they have taken a very important step in telling all their recycling vendors that they must be certified to the highest recycling standards (e-Stewards) later this year. Had that been in place already, they would have tied for the top score here.

Grading Criteria	Max Points	Points Earned	Comments
<b>1. ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM</b>			
1.1. Does the retailer have an ongoing year-round program to take back and <u>recycle</u> electronic products from consumers? (as opposed to occasional events or a trade in program)	1	1	BB has both a recycling program and trade in program.
1.2. Do they take back for recycling all the same product categories that they sell?	3	3	They take back all 13 categories we reviewed, including televisions, monitors, and printer. (They don't take TVs over 32" in stores, but other options are available.)
1.3. Do they offer physical collection sites (in stores or other locations) where they <b>collect all of the large electronic items</b> (categories other than phones and tablets) that they sell?	5	5	They collect used electronics at all of their stores in the U.S.
1.4. Do they have collection sites for e-waste recycling in every state they sell into?	5	5	Yes, since every store takes back e-waste.
1.5. Is recycling free at the time of drop off?	3	3	Yes
1.6. Secret programs - Is the recycling program a secret? No info on websites or in stores? This earns a deduction.	-10		
<b>Total this section</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>TRANSPARENCY on volumes</b>			
<b>2. TRANSPARENCY.</b> Does the retailer publicly report on their takeback program every year, on their website, including:			
2.1. Total volume of equipment collected?	1	1	They report this.
2.2. How much equipment was refurbished and reused? (This can include trade in programs.)	1	1	They don't disclose volumes in their trade in program, but they did disclose reuse from recycling
2.3. How much equipment was recycled?	1	1	They report this.
2.4. How much ink and toner was recycled (if they sell printers)	1	1	They report this.
2.5. Total volume collected as a percentage of the total volume the retailer sold.	5	0	No disclosure
2.6. Breakdown of specific materials ultimately	1	0	No disclosure

Grading Criteria	Max Points	Points Earned	Comments
recovered during recycling, including critical minerals, if any			
<b>Total this section</b>	<b>10 pts</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>3. HOW MUCH IS COMING BACK?</b>			
3.1. How much total electronic equipment did the retailer take back in 2012 in the U.S. for recycling and reuse?	5	3	96 million pounds, over 3 lbs per \$1000 in products sold.
3.2. How much equipment was refurbished and reused?	4	1	They won't disclose the volumes in their trade in program. Reuse volumes from the recycling program is 4,448,228 lbs (4.5% of total) or 157,130 units.
3.3. How much equipment was recycled?	4	3	
3.4. How much toner and ink recycled (if they sell toner/ink)?	4	1	1.2 million units of toner.
<b>Total this section</b>	<b>17 pts</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING</b>			
<b>4. Responsible Recycling</b> We want to be sure that reuse and recycling is done responsibly, and that toxic e-waste isn't sent to developing countries where it can cause harm.			
<b>4.1. Public Export Policy.</b> Does retailer have a formal public policy (on website) for their recycling and trade-in programs that says that:			
4.1.1. All products or parts must be tested and found to be fully functional before being exported from the U.S. to developing countries	3	3	
4.1.2. All hazardous materials <sup>i</sup> and components generated by downstream refurbishers and recyclers must be kept in developed countries throughout final disposition			
<b>4.2. Transparency.</b> Does company publicly disclose all their recycling and reuse vendors for their recycling and trade in programs?	3	1	They list recycling vendors, but not trade in vendors (and their recyclers).
<b>4.3. E-Steward Certification.</b> 4.3.1. Are all of the company's recycling and reuse vendors handling electronics returned in the U.S. certified to the highest voluntary standard in the industry, the <i>e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment</i> <sup>®</sup>	Max 10	5	Historically, they have allowed vendors to be certified to EITHER e-stewards or R2, which is still the policy on their website. But last fall, they announced publicly that they will require vendors to be certified to both standards. That cutoff date is not specified, but they are in the process of modifying their contracts. So we give them partial credit here.
4.3.2. <b>Future certification.</b> If the answer to 4.3.1 above is "no," has the company signed a pledge that by [future date], all of their takeback and trade-in programs in the U.S.			

Grading Criteria	Max Points	Points Earned	Comments
will work <u>only</u> with reuse and recycling vendors who are certified e-Stewards? All electronics returned in the U.S. will go only to certified e-Stewards for reuse, repair, or recycling.			
<b>Total this section</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>38</b>	
Link to information on retailer website: <a href="http://www.bestbuy.com/site/Global-Promotions/Recycling-Electronics/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025">http://www.bestbuy.com/site/Global-Promotions/Recycling-Electronics/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025</a>			

For an explanation of why each question is important, see our "[Criteria for Grading.](#)"

Grading Scale

A = 46-60

B = 31-45

C = 21-30

D = 11-20

F = 0 to 10

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<sup>i</sup> Hazardous materials as defined under International Law, established by the [Basel Convention](#), not the very narrow definition that the US EPA uses.