

**GoodElectronics** is a global network on human rights and sustainable production in the electronics industry. This bi-monthly newsletter is distributed amongst a broad network of human rights and environmental organisations, unions, universities and individuals that aim to improve human rights and environmental conditions based in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the U.S. If you would like to learn more about GoodElectronics, or have any news, publications or events to share, please contact [info@goodelectronics.org](mailto:info@goodelectronics.org)

## Civil Society News

### New GoodElectronics website!

**April 2**

Visit the new GoodElectronics website at [www.goodelectronics.org](http://www.goodelectronics.org) for electronics news, information about the network and the member organizations, an event calendar and more! A company monitor is upcoming.

### European Commission position on decaBDE up in smoke after European Court decision

**April 1, EEB, Greenpeace, HEAL**

An international group of environmental, legal and health NGOs welcomed today's judgment by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) against the European Commission's decision to exempt decaBDE, a brominated flame retardant, from a list of hazardous substances banned in the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive. The judgment ends a legal disagreement that arose after several Member States as well as Norway and the European Parliament took the Commission to the ECJ for not respecting the RoHS procedure for banning of substances. [Read more.](#)

### The e-Stewards initiative

**March, Basil Action Network**

The [e-Stewards](#) are North America's most Responsible Recyclers. They have been qualified by BAN as recyclers that uphold the [Electronics Recycler's Pledge of True Stewardship](#) – "the World's Most Rigorous Environmental and Social Justice Criteria for Recycling e-Waste!" [Read more.](#)



### Publication: Social responsibility of Spanish companies in Latin America (electronics sector).

**March 13, Observatorio de Responsabilidad Social Corporativa**

This publication gathers the interventions of the 'Second International Meeting about the Corporate Social Responsibility of Spanish companies in Latin America (electronics sector)'. In this meeting there was a wide representation of Spanish companies and of Civil Society of both continents. The main theme of the meeting was de role of Civil Society with regard to CSR and the strategies developed by electronics companies in Latin America. [Read more.](#)

### GoodElectronics introduction video

GoodElectronics has launched an introduction video about the network. The 3:45-minute film is made by [Lokaalmondiaal](#) and can be downloaded [here](#).



## What is a green electronics product?

**March 5, Greenpeace**

The Sony Vaio TZ11 laptop, Sony Ericsson T650i mobile phone and Sony Ericsson P1i PDA have come out on top in Greenpeace's first survey of greener electronics products. The main brands of desktop PCs and notebooks, mobile phones, and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), are assessed on their use of hazardous chemicals, energy efficiency, overall product lifecycle (recyclability and upgradeability) and other factors. Read the full '[Searching for Greener Electronics](#)' survey and where companies stand in the [Guide to Greener Electronics](#) that ranks companies overall policies and practice. [Read more.](#)

## Hidden flow: The rising tide of European electronic waste in Ghana and Nigeria

**February 25, DanWatch**

Despite new European regulations to prevent electronic waste from being dumped in Africa and Asia, a hidden flow of end-of-life electronics is threatening to drown West Africa. "Ghana is increasingly becoming a dumping ground for waste from Europe and the US. We are talking about several tons of obsolete discarded computers, monitors etc. We don't have the mechanism or the system in place in this country to recycle these wastes. Some of these items come in under the guise of donations, but when you examine the items they don't work," said Mike Anane, Director of the league of Environmental journalists in Ghana. [Read more.](#)



## Vast amounts of hazardous waste unaccounted for

**February 21, Greenpeace**

Amsterdam, 21 February 2008 – The fate of large quantities of electronic waste is unknown, according to a Greenpeace report [Toxic Tech: Not in Our Backyard](#), published today. While some electronic waste may be accounted for by storage in attics or garages, much may be disposed of with mixed waste in landfills and incinerators or exported - often illegally - for dumping in Africa or for rudimentary recycling in Asia, where it has a high toll on health, safety and the environment. [Read more.](#)



## Making IT fair in Poland

**February 20, makeITfair**

In recent years the electronics industry has been developing at a very fast rate in Poland. This development (in itself positive for the Polish economy) directed attention of NGOs to the working conditions in the electronic factories. makeITfair - a project implemented by a number of organizations from the EU and developing countries - developed a report titled [Gender perspective. Production of Next-Generation Electronics in Poland](#). Read the [full press release](#).

## TV makers facing a Toxic Digital Deadline

**February 20, As You Sow**

A year from today, tens of millions of televisions may instantly become obsolete. When the nation's television spectrum switches from the analog we're currently using to the digital spectrum of the future, all of our existing analog televisions will go dark. What will happen to the old TVs pushed aside by the shiny new mega-screen units?



Even though nearly one-third of the U.S. is now covered by state e-waste recycling laws, almost 90 percent of e-waste -- whether computers, iPods or TVs -- is still ending up in landfills or getting exported to other countries, according to research conducted by GreenBiz.com for its report, [The State of Green Business 2008](#). As You Sow has had considerable success working with other shareholders to get major computer manufacturers to adopt take back systems. [Read more.](#)

## New study on social impacts of electronics production and recycling in China

February 14, Öko-Institut

The German Öko-Institut published a study on "Key Social Impacts of Electronics Production and WEEE-Recycling in China". The study was originally finished in June last year, but was not published until presented to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Besides Andreas Manhart, whose name is the only one written on the document, there have been a number of local co-authors who refrained from being listed on the cover page. The report can be downloaded [here](#).



## General News

### E-waste plant to be a recycling role model

March 13, eWaste Guide

An electronic waste management facility, which is hoped to be a model for other developing countries, will be launched in Cape Town next Tuesday to combat the fastest-growing waste stream in South Africa. The facility would recycle parts of electronic devices and dispose of the rest in an environmentally sustainable fashion, said Susanne Dittke, a waste reduction adviser working on the project. [Read more.](#)

### Epa launches cell phone recycling program

March 6, eWaste Guide, EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with retailers, manufacturers and service providers recently introduced the "[Recycle Your Cell Phone: It's an Easy Call.](#)" campaign. Eleven companies, including AT&T, T-Mobile, Staples, Best Buy and Office Depot are involved. [Read more.](#)

### KICTANet launches e-waste management plan in Kenya

March 5, eWaste Guide

A project launched by the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), hopes to force the country to critically review its management of electronic waste (e-waste). [Read more.](#)

### City Council approves a bill requiring residents to recycle electronics

February 14, New York Times

New York City is a step closer to adopting one of the toughest electronics recycling laws in the nation, despite strong objections from manufacturers and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. The City Council on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a bill that would impose a \$100 fine on anyone who throws an old computer, printer or other electronic gadget into the trash. Recycling the electronic waste will become mandatory, and manufacturers will be required to take back their own products as well as those made by companies that have gone out of business. [Read more.](#)

### New standard reduces WEEE impacts

February 7, eWaste Guide

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has introduced a new international standard to help designers of audio-video and information technology equipment make the most environmental and energy efficient decisions at the start of the design and development process. The standard, IEC 62075, makes designers of laptops, mobile



phones and TVs, among other things, consider the entire life cycle of a product. This begins with the materials and energy used in a product's manufacturing, to its efficiency when switched on or in standby mode, through to the safe disposal of the product at the end of its life. [Read more.](#)

## Articles

New York Times: [A Hazardous Afterlife.](#)

Financial Times: [Congo rebels cash in on demand for tin.](#)

## E-Calendar

Month	Event	Organized by	Web link	Location
<b>April</b>				
1-2	2008 Business Ethics Conference	European Business Ethics Network UK	<a href="http://www.ebenuk.org/conference.html">http://www.ebenuk.org/conference.html</a>	Cambridge, United Kingdom
15-16	Intellectual Property Symposium	Semiconductor Insights, Eetimes, Portelligent	<a href="http://www.eetimes.semiconductor.com/">http://www.eetimes.semiconductor.com/</a>	San Jose, California, USA
16-17	The Global Anti-corruption, Compliance and Ethics Conference	Ethical Corporation	<a href="http://www.ethicalcorp.com/global-ethics/">http://www.ethicalcorp.com/global-ethics/</a>	Chicago, USA
20-25	UNCTAD XII	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	<a href="http://www.unctadxii.org/en/">http://www.unctadxii.org/en/</a>	Accra, Ghana
30-2	Global summit on Social Responsibility	Asae & The Center	<a href="http://www.asaecenter.org/globalsummitSR">www.asaecenter.org/globalsummitSR</a>	Washington, USA
<b>May</b>				
7,8,9	The Amsterdam Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency	Global Reporting Initiative	<a href="http://www.globalreporting.org/NewsEventsPress/Conference2008/">http://www.globalreporting.org/NewsEventsPress/Conference2008/</a>	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
19-21	IEEE International Symposium on Electronics and the Environment	IEEE Computer Society's Technical Committee on Electronics and the Environment (ISEE)	<a href="http://www.regconnect.com/content/isee/">http://www.regconnect.com/content/isee/</a>	San Francisco, California, USA
25-30	Eclectic Tech Carnival /ETC 2008	GenderChangers	<a href="http://eclectictechcarnival.org">http://eclectictechcarnival.org</a>	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
29	Smart regulation: Legislative opportunities for the EU to improve corporate accountability	ECCJ	<a href="http://www.corporatejustice.org/spip.php?article67&amp;lang=en">http://www.corporatejustice.org/spip.php?article67&amp;lang=en</a>	European parliament, Brussels, Belgium
29-30	TBLI Asia Conference	TBLI	<a href="http://www.tbli.org/pagina/TBLI+CONFERENCE+ASIA+2008/1587/en/">http://www.tbli.org/pagina/TBLI+CONFERENCE+ASIA+2008/1587/en/</a>	The Landmark Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



FUNDING: This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of SOMO and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

