

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

Civil Society News

Child labour and human rights abuses behind the latest electronic gadget

November 27, Make IT fair

50,000 children are estimated to work in the mines of Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Much of the cobalt they mine ends up in batteries for portable electronics that young people in Europe love to buy, such as mobile phones, laptops and MP3 players. MakeITfair, a new network of organizations from across Europe, is calling on companies such as Sony, Nokia, Hewlett-Packard and Philips to start addressing the ethical and environmental risks related to purchasing of metals. [Read more](#) or see: www.makeitfair.org



New leaders and new records in Greenpeace's latest greener electronics guide

November 27, Greenpeace

The sixth edition of Greenpeace International's 'Guide to Greener Electronics' has been expanded to include televisions and game consoles. Market leaders Microsoft, Nintendo, Philips and Sharp enter at the bottom of the ranking of environmental performance with Nintendo being the first company scoring zero out of a possible 10 points. Philips and Microsoft performed little better, scoring only 2 and 2.7, respectively. [Read more](#).

SACOM: Dell – the manufacturing of sweatshop computers

November 24, SACOM

One of the major causes of the exploitation of workers is the outsourcing system and associated evasion of social responsibility of the trans-national companies. The top global computer brand company DELL for instance, was found in SACOM's last report to be outsourcing to Yong Hong Electronics Factory in Shenzhen who employ children. DELL failed to commit itself and the supplier factory for ratification and improvement. Instead the trans-national buyer chose to terminate the business relation, wash its hands and evade long-term responsibility with its supplier. The reaction of DELL is corporate irresponsibility, not responsibility. The full report can be extracted [here](#).



Proposed waste law to officially turn India into global waste destination

November 14, Basil Action Network & Toxics Link

Through a jugglery of words in the draft legislation on waste, the Indian Government may pave the way for officially opening floodgates for the dumping of world's hazardous waste in the name of recycling and unleash unprecedented havoc on India's environment and health of its citizens, environmentalists have warned. [Read more](#).



Tell TV Manufacturers: Take Back My TV!

Electronics Take back Coalition

Last year 45.5 million TVs were sold around the world. With the popularity of flat screen and hi-definition TVs replacing older boxes, the sheer volume of electronic waste has gotten out of control. The Take Back My TV Campaign lobby's for sustainable recycling of old TV's. See www.takebackmytv.com and <http://www.youtube.com/group/goodelectronics>

Hazardous substances reduced, but not eliminated from laptops

October 23, Greenpeace

A Greenpeace investigation into hazardous materials in laptop computers shows that manufacturers have phased out use of some of the most toxic materials over the past year but still have a long way to go in eliminating others, such as PVC and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and phthalates. [Read more.](#)

Article: Export of Electronic Equipment Waste

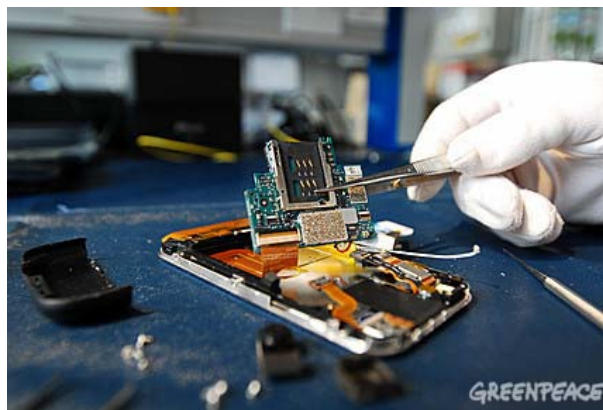
Berkeley University of California

Less than 10% of discarded electronics products are currently recycled. The United States and many other developed countries have exported e-waste primarily to Asia knowing full well that it carried with it a real harm to the poor communities where it would be discarded. There is an urgent need for manufacturers of electronics products to take responsibility for their products from production through to the end-of-life. The full article, written by Joseph LaDou from the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at University of California School of Medicine, can be downloaded [here](#).

Scientific tests reveal iPhone contains hazardous chemicals and materials

October 15, Greenpeace

Apple's iPhone contains hazardous chemicals and materials, according to the results of scientific tests commissioned by Greenpeace. The insight into the components of the iPhone is presented in the Greenpeace report, '[Missed call: the iPhone's hazardous chemicals](#)'. Apple launched the iPhone into the US market in June 2007. The discovery of hazardous chemicals suggests that Apple is failing to make early progress, even in entirely new product lines, towards achieving its commitment to phase-out all uses of brominated compounds and PVC by the end of 2008. [Read more.](#)



General News

South Africa's miners union starts safety strike

December 4, Johannesburg (Reuters)

South Africa's biggest miners' union launched a one-day national strike on Tuesday to protest against deaths in the country's mines, disrupting operations across the world's top producer of platinum and gold. [Read more.](#)

Labour tension grows in China

November 28, The Wall Street Journal

BEIJING - Protests by Hong Kong groups over the stabbing of a labour leader in Shenzhen reflect how tensions are bubbling up in southern China ahead of the 1st of January, when the country's new labour laws will take effect. [Read more.](#)



The USA ships electronics waste overseas

November 18, AP

While there are no precise figures, activists estimate that 50 to 80 percent of the 300,000 to 400,000 tons of electronics collected for recycling in the U.S. each year ends up overseas. Workers in countries such as China, India and Nigeria then use hammers, gas burners and their bare hands to extract metals, glass and other recyclables, exposing themselves and the environment to a cocktail of toxic chemicals. [Read more.](#)

In 'e-waste heartland', a toxic China

November 18, Herald Tribune

For five years, environmentalists and the news media have publicized the danger to Chinese workers who dismantle much of the world's junked electronics. Yet a visit to this south-eastern Chinese town regarded as the heartland of "e-waste" disposal shows little has improved. In fact, the problem is growing worse because of China's own contribution. [Read more.](#)

Bush vetoes funds for IBM cancer study

November 17, Press & Sun-Bulletin

President Bush vetoed a spending bill this week that would have funded a \$3.2 million cancer-rate study of IBM workers in Endicott. [Read more.](#)

Apple's response to its critics has been poor

November 7, EthicalCorp

Rising pressure from NGO's and growing customer unrest could seriously harm Apple's brand. Yet the company is doing little to improve relations with these groups. [Read more.](#)

Nairobi e-waste dump threatened lives of hundreds of children

November 6, AFP

The Nairobi slum where 12-year-old Priscilla grew up abuts one of Africa's largest dumpsites. Now her blood is charged with lead, as electronic waste from the world over piles up unchecked. Her blood lead level is 19.9 micrograms per decilitre, twice the international norm. Dandora is far and away the largest refuse dump in the 4.5-million-strong Kenyan capital, and with 2,000 tons of fresh waste every day, it also holds the dubious distinction of being a member of the "dirty 30" club of the world's most polluted sites. [Read more.](#)

EU targets governments over electronics waste rules

October 17, Reuters

Several European Union countries have failed to turn the bloc's rules on electronic waste into national law and now face legal action from Brussels. The rules require manufacturers to accept used refrigerators, computers, cell phones and other appliances from consumers and recycle them. The European Commission sent warning letters to the offending countries, the first step in a legal process that can end up at an EU court which can eventually impose fines. [Read more.](#)

Intel and Google announce new plan for energy-efficient computing

October 4, News Target

Intel Corp. and Google Inc. recently announced an initiative to promote the development and adoption of more energy-efficient computers, components and power supplies. Twenty-five additional companies and organizations have already signed up for the *Climate Savers Computing Initiative*. "The Climate Savers Computing Initiative is setting a new 90 percent efficiency target for power supplies, which if achieved, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 54 million tons per year." said Urs Hölzle, Google's senior vice president of operations. [Read more.](#)



Hewlett Packard to aid Africa's e-waste battle

September 20, SciDev Net

Computer company Hewlett-Packard (HP) has launched a project to help local African enterprises perform safer and more effective electronic waste recycling. The project, in association with the Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and the Swiss Institute for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), will begin in Kenya, Morocco and Tunisia, examining each country's situation and providing expertise and funds to private initiatives to improve the level of e-waste recycling. [Read more.](#)

E-Calendar

Month	Event	Organized by	Web link	Location
December				
3-4	Conference: Employee engagement for a sustainable business	Ethical corporation	http://www.ethicalcorp.com/employee%2Dengagement/	London, United Kingdom
Januari				
10-11	5 th ADERSE Conference	University Pierre Mendès-France	http://www.globethics.net/call-for-papers/item?item_id=37085	Grenoble, France
11	Fill the Gap – The mobile revolution: Hope or Hype?	Hivos, Oneworld.nl, IICD, DeBalie	http://www.fill-the-gap.nl/	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
29-30	Nokia Corporate responsibility Stakeholder Days	Nokia		Espoo, Finland
February				
12-13	The climate change summit 2008	Ethical corporation	http://www.ethicalcorp.com/climate/	London, United Kingdom

