

TV Recycling Report Card



How are the TV companies doing with their programs to take back and recycle their old TVs?

		<p>No TV companies earned high marks.</p>
	<p>Sony (B-)</p>	<p>Sony was the first TV company to launch a national takeback program. They need a lot more collection sites to be convenient in many states, but we applaud Sony for its leadership on TV takeback.</p>
	<p>Samsung LG Wal-mart</p>	<p>LG and Samsung have national takeback programs. Wal-mart has recently partnered with Samsung to take back Wal-mart's house branded TVs.</p>
	<p>Panasonic Sharp Toshiba Best Buy</p>	<p>These three manufacturers partner together in recycling under their MRM company. MRM has just started expanding beyond states which require recycling. Best Buy's rating is for taking back its house brand TVs.</p>
	<p>Funai Hitachi JVC Mitsubishi Philips Sanyo</p> <p>Thomson Vizio Target</p>	<p>These companies have no voluntary takeback programs at all.</p>

Alphabetical List of Companies and Grades

For information about how a company is performing, click on Detailed Grades.

To go to the company's recycling website (if they have a program) click on Website.

The list of "TV companies" includes 3 retailers who have house brands of TVs that they manufacture. They are graded on taking back their house brands.

TV Manufacturer	Details on Grades, & Company Recycling Websites (if any)	Total Points Out of 100	Final Grade
Funai	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
Hitachi	Detailed Grades , No program	1	F
JVC	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
LG	Detailed Grades , Website	39	C
Mitsubishi	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
Panasonic	Detailed Grades , Website	18	D
Philips	Detailed Grades , No program	1	F
Samsung	Detailed Grades , Website	46	C
Sanyo	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
Sharp	Detailed Grades , Website	18	D
Sony	Detailed Grades , Website	61	B -
Toshiba	Detailed Grades , Website	22	D
Thomson	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
Vizio	Detailed Grades , No program	0	F
Retailers With House Brands			
Best Buy	Detailed Grades , Website	22	D
Target	Detailed Grades , No program	2	F
Wal-mart	Detailed Grades , Website	40	C

Grading Scale:

A: 81-100

D: 11-34

B: 61-80

F: 0-10

C: 35-60

TV Recycling: A Slow Start With Digital Conversion Fast Approaching

Is the TV Industry Embracing Recycling?

This is our first TV Takeback Report Card. Only a little over a year ago, no TV company had a national takeback and recycling program, and the digital conversion was fast approaching. While most computer companies have been offering takeback for a few years now, the TV companies had no programs, and were busy lobbying against state laws requiring takeback.

Sony was the first TV manufacturer to launch a national program, in September 2007. LG and Samsung followed with programs in summer of 2008. Panasonic/Sharp/Toshiba, who partner their recycling efforts, rolled out plans for voluntary takeback efforts in some states in late October. We are also grading the three largest retailers of TVs, who also have house brands. On this report, we are grading them on their takeback efforts of their own house brands.

All new programs

Since these programs are all fairly new, the grades reflect that this industry is just getting started with its takeback and recycling efforts. While some companies do have national programs, none of them have fully developed networks of collection sites. Many have just a few sites to serve an entire state – far from adequate to make this convenient for consumers. Many use sites in industrial locations (at recycling sites), also not convenient. But we applaud these beginning efforts, and we look forward to the time when there is more coordination between the TV companies, the retailers and others for locating collection sites.

Almost no transparency or reporting

We are most disappointed in the lack of transparency about what these programs are actually doing. Many of our grading criteria have to do with their reporting on where the materials are going, how they are being handled, as a way of evaluating how responsibly they are handling their toxic materials. We believe that companies who are doing this right should be fully transparent about their vendors, their standards, and the ultimate destinations for these materials. When we don't see full transparency, we have serious concerns that there is a reason for the silence.

We also are not seeing very clear reporting on goals for how much to collect and volumes reported. Since the programs are fairly new, we can understand reporting not being up to speed (although the companies could report on the volumes they are obligated to collect under state laws). But we think all of them should have goals for what they intend to collect.

How we graded

Grading was based on information available on their websites as of November 1, 2008. For a list of the grading criteria and explanations, see our [Explanation of Grading](#). We will periodically update this grading.

Electronics TakeBack Coalition



TAKE IT BACK. MAKE IT GREEN. RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY.