

ELECTRONICS TAKE BACK AND RECYCLING

WHEREAS Target Corp. is the fourth largest U.S. retailer of consumer electronics, which contain many toxic materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium, brominated flame retardants, polyvinyl chloride, and are difficult to recycle.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that only 13% percent of electronic waste disposed of in the U.S. was recovered for recycling in 2007. E-waste is the fastest growing part of the municipal waste stream, comprising more than 5%. Although the most hazardous component of the municipal waste stream, the estimated recovery rate for e-waste is far below the overall U.S. recovery rate for municipal waste of 33%.

Improper disposal of electronics can result in serious public health and environmental impacts. Old analog TV sets and monitors with cathode ray tubes contain large amounts of lead, flat screen monitors contain mercury switches, and computer batteries contain cadmium, all of which can be harmful to human health if released to the environment.

Electronic goods collected for recycling in the US are often shipped by recyclers to developing countries where they endanger health and the environment. For instance, *Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia*, a report by Basel Action Network (BAN), revealed appalling conditions in the city of Guiyu, China, where approximately 100,000 migrant workers break apart and process old electronic equipment including cell phones, computers, printers and monitors under primitive conditions. Workers openly burn plastics and wires, and melt toxic soldered circuit boards to extract gold, silver and copper. These activities threaten worker health and pollute land and water. Tons of discarded components lie strewn about the countryside. BAN exposed similarly disturbing conditions in Lagos, Nigeria.

Target's 2008 Corporate Responsibility report states "we take responsibility for our social, environmental and economic impact," yet the company lacks a policy to ensure safe disposal of the electronics it collects. Our company provides take back for small devices such as music players and mobile phones. The company does not disclose substantive information about the disposition of electronics it collects, whether it promotes reuse of working equipment, and whether it bars export of collected electronics to the harmful circumstances described by BAN. In our view, shareholders need assurances that take back programs are monitoring how collected goods are reused or recycled.

The proponents believe all electronics collected by our company should be recycled and/or refurbished by globally responsible electronics recyclers who are independently verified to meet a minimum standard, such as the e-Stewards standard. Best Buy, for example, bars downstream service providers from exporting non-working equipment or components to developing countries, and requires third party audits of providers.

RESOLVED that Target Corp.'s board of directors prepare a report, at reasonable cost and excluding confidential information, on policy options, above and beyond legal compliance, to minimize the environmental impacts of its electronics recycling activities by promoting reuse of working equipment and preventing export to non-OECD countries of hazardous e-waste and untested or non-working equipment or components.