

Product Stewardship Compact
for
Computers and Computer Peripherals

6th May 2009



Total Environment Centre Inc



Product Stewardship Compact for Computers and Computer Peripherals:

The signatories recognise the urgent need for a product stewardship scheme for end of life computers and computer peripherals (computer equipment) that requires attention by federal and state governments. The absence of a comprehensive, national computer equipment take-back and recycling scheme for consumers is causing the unnecessary dumping of computer equipment in landfill. The result is the loss of non-renewable resources, missed opportunities for carbon emission reduction, and the under-utilisation of recycling infrastructure.

The signatories call on federal and state governments to implement regulatory mechanisms by 2010 that mandate participation by all industry participants in a product stewardship scheme, supported on the basis of shared responsibility by other stakeholders e.g. consumers, governments, business associations community interest groups etc. The signatories agree on the following key principles for the development of a product stewardship scheme.

1. Responsibilities associated with establishment and management of a product stewardship scheme for Computer Equipment are primarily borne by producers of the products, where “producer(s)” means the manufacturer or first importer of the product into Australia.
2. Activities associated with the implementation of the product stewardship scheme are the shared responsibility of Government, industry, retailers, consumers and any other stakeholders associated with the ownership of Computer Equipment.
3. Operational costs of the program shall be subject to competitive market forces such that the lowest cost model that meets the program objectives may prevail. The scheme funding mechanism and cost allocation shall be fair and verifiable.
4. The scheme is national in scope and covers only end-of-life Computer Equipment.
5. The scheme shall have clear, measurable and achievable objectives, targets (set at levels to meet evolving community expectations), outcomes and KPIs that reflect shared responsibility and contribution by all stakeholders. Progress against the KPIs shall be regularly reported publicly and reviewed.



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6. Recycling of end-of-life Computer Equipment shall comply with consistent, national recycling standards agreed between Government jurisdictions, industry, recovery and recycling businesses and other stakeholders
7. The scheme is simple for consumers and other stakeholders to use, including easy access to a collection network.
8. Education and awareness-raising by stakeholders is a key component of the scheme.
9. Leadership by governments in the clear espousal and implementation by government agencies of sustainable purchasing policies that recognize the importance of end of life product responsibility by suppliers represents an important support for the Scheme.
10. The scheme shall be inclusive and equitable, underpinned by regulatory mechanisms that mandate participation by all industry participants and supported by clear enforcement initiatives that ensure compliance.
11. The scheme shall be supported by regulation and incentives sufficient to encourage universal participation
12. Development and management of the scheme and incentives is a shared responsibility of all key stakeholders.

In signing this Compact the signatories acknowledge their interest as stakeholders and agree to work towards the prompt establishment of a scheme that is based on the above principles and to consult on an ongoing basis with a view to advancing the objectives of this Compact.

Signed on behalf of the **Australian Information Industry Association**

Ian Birks

Chief Executive Officer

6th May 2009

Signed on behalf of the **Total Environment Centre**

Jeff Angel

Director

6th May 2009



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Supporting Organisations

Clean Up Australia
Environment Victoria



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