

Report urges stakeholders to responsibly manage e-waste. IT brands share supply chain management experiences at industry roundtable. Marks & Spencer launches interactive supplier map & more

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[A report published this week by the journal *nature*](#) highlights the challenges that China faces as the world's largest recipient of global e-waste. China handled around 70% of the world's e-waste in 2012, but inefficient legislation has caused much of this waste to be processed via a "grey market" for recycling worth about \$15 billion.* Illicit recycling efforts release toxic materials that harm human health and the environment. The report urges stakeholders to share responsibility: **"It is time for consumers, researchers, manufacturers, nations and international regulators to direct some of the passion and creativity they have for new gadgets towards responsibly dealing with old ones."**

The vast majority of brands exhibit significant room for improvement on indicator 5.1 of the [Corporate Information Transparency Index \(CITI\)](#), which focuses on responsible recycling efforts. To receive points, brands can establish take-back schemes for used products. Companies can use the IPE database and other resources to track the compliance status of final processing facilities in China and push those facilities with environmental compliance challenges to follow up and make improvements.

*An earlier version of this newsletter misstated this figure as \$15 million.

In this month's newsletter:

- [IPE releases first in a series of leather industry pollution investigative reports](#)
- [IT brands share supply chain experiences at industry roundtable](#)
- [Blue Map app's new green choice platform aims to create shared value](#)
- [Marks & Spencer launches interactive supplier map](#)
- [China's Industry and IT Ministry convenes forum to support the implementation of "Made in China 2025" policy via green supply chain development](#)

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Last Friday, IPE and local environmental NGOs Lyse Jiangnan and Huai River Defenders released the first in a multi-part series of We Chat articles examining **pollution from the leather industry** ([read here in Chinese](#)). The first article focuses on difficulties in treating leather industry wastewater, heavy metal pollution, and secondhand pollution from improper sludge disposal, as well as the related health risks from these pollution problems. Future articles will explore the performance of well-known industry brands.

IT brands share experiences, discuss common challenges at industry roundtable

Supply chain representatives from 11 brands in the IT industry joined a roundtable conference convened by IPE in Beijing on July 22, where they shared best case practices and discussed solutions to common challenges. Among particularly salient discussion points was how to solve the responsibility loophole surrounding centralized wastewater treatment. Representatives from Apple shared their experiences in mapping their suppliers' path of wastewater discharge, including discharge route, name of centralized treatment facility, discharging contract, status of online monitoring, and whether or not the supplier has conducted due-diligence on the receiving centralized wastewater treatment facility. IPE also introduced the new "green choice" module in version 3.0 of the Blue Map app that aims to create shared value by featuring brands that have pushed suppliers to address environmental compliance issues (see graphic below for details). Brands that participated in the discussion included Apple, Dell, Huawei, Ericsson, Cisco, Canon, Sony, Samsung, Toshiba, Hitachi and Siemens.



CREATING SHARED VALUE

Blue Map App: Building an interactive platform for green marketing

In the newly upgraded version of the Blue Map app, brands' green performance is integrated into the section on daily life service tips!

Weekly featured green brands

- Real-time updates of brand actions.
- Which brands have taken concrete action to improve environmental quality?
- Will soon begin publishing green stories from brands.

Corporate Information Transparency Index (CITI)

- Updates to scores and rankings based on concrete improvements from brands' suppliers.
- Lifting the green veil, so that consumers have access to brands' real performance info.
- Promoted 167 brands to share best practices and establish industry benchmarks.

Creating an interactive platform for green marketing

- Share information to Weibo and We Chat and tag in (@) brands' official Weibo accounts.
- Consumers can like or downvote brands to voice their expectations.
- Responding to and continuous interactions with consumers can expand green marketing!

Marks & Spencer launches interactive supplier map

Marks & Spencer [launched an interactive map](#) of 690 of its global suppliers for the first time in June of this year as part of its [Plan A program](#). M&S follows in the footsteps of a handful of other leading brands that have published interactive supplier maps, including [Nike](#), [H&M](#) and [Patagonia](#). M&S's map, which displays 226 factories in China, details the worldwide location of its clothing, footwear, accessories and food suppliers and can be filtered by country, factory name, and type of supplier (clothing or food). Clicking on a supplier reveals information about that particular facility, including supplier name, address, number of workers, and gender breakdown. M&S's map reflects the innovation and transparency that more and more industry leaders are infusing into their supply chain management, with another example being [the list of wet processing facilities that Inditex recently published](#) (highlighted in [last month's newsletter](#)). Apart from its supplier map, M&S also publishes a series of supply chain management documents for public reference, including its [factory self-audit for dyers, finishers, printers and laundries](#) and its [ECP module](#).



China's Industry and IT Ministry convenes green supply chain forum to support implementation of "Made in China 2025" policy

A sub-department of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) [convened the "Manufacturing Corporate Green Supply Chain Management Forum" on July 22](#) to support the implementation of China's "Made in China 2025" policy. Sustainable manufacturing is a key component of the "Made in China 2025" program, which aims to revitalize China's manufacturing industry by emphasizing quality over quantity. Speakers emphasized the significance of sustainable cradle-to-grave life cycles, including product design, sustainable raw materials procurement, production, consumption and recycling, as well as the importance of developing of green supply chain management. Representatives from the materials sector also shared their experiences: [Jason Ho, speaking on behalf of Dell, described how sustainable procurement has minimized business risk by helping Dell identify suppliers at risk of being fined or punished for environmental issues](#). More than a hundred participants from government, businesses, and other organizations participated in the forum.

POLICY UPDATES & RESOURCES

Policy Updates

- [Ministry of Environmental Protection \(MEP\) launches official inspection tour of steel industry \(Chinese\)](#) -- Official announcement from MEP, for English-language article from Reuters see [here](#)
- [Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\) Law \(Chinese\)](#) -- New amendments passed by NPC Standing Committee on July 2; will go into effect the starting penalties for noncompliance; raises the importance of developing in requirements for public participation. For chinadialogue's commentary on the new law, see [here \(English\)](#) or [here \(Chinese\)](#).

Policy Resources

- [Soil Pollution Action Plan \("Soil Ten"\) \(Chinese\)](#)
- [Summary of key targets of Soil Ten Plan \(English\)](#)
- [Amendments to PRC's Law on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution \(passed in August 2015\) \(English translation\)](#)
- ["Water 10" Action Plan \(issued in April 2015\) \(English translation\)](#)
- [Made in China 2025 \(policy summary\)](#)
- [EU-China Environmental Governance Project Policy Resource Center \(Bilingual\)](#)
- [China Hazardous Chemicals Management Resource Center \(Bilingual\)](#)
- [China Law Translate](#) (crowd-sourced English translations of Chinese laws)

Did you know?

IPE's Green Supply Chain team has our own Weibo account!

Follow us here:

IN THE NEWS

[G20 clean-up to disrupt China textile supply chain -- just-style](#), August 3

[Take responsibility for electronic-waste disposal -- nature](#), August 3

RELATED REPORTS

China Water Risk: [Rare Earths: Shades of Grey](#)

Greenpeace: [Detox Catwalk 2016](#) (third edition analyzing brands' Detox 2020 commitments to eliminate hazardous chemicals from their supply chains)

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If you have feedback or comments for this newsletter or IPE, we want to know! Please send a message to kate.logan@ipe.org.cn.

