

CASE STUDY



HP is Closing the Loop in Cartridge Manufacturing

Ranked second globally by Greenpeace International's Greener Electronics scorecard for its sustainable operations, including product take-back programs, HP's recycling program began in 2001 with prepaid envelopes tucked into packaging that allowed users to post their old cartridges at no cost. Customers can dispose of their old cartridges at retailers, such as Staples. The company estimates it has produced more than one billion original HP ink cartridges with recycled plastic from the HP closed-loop recycling process.

Closed-loop is a production system whereby waste material within the manufacturing process and at end-of-life is returned back to that same process for re-use. Using a combination of recycled plastic from HP ink cartridges and recycled plastic bottle materials creates original HP ink cartridges. According to the company, cartridges have been recycled as many as 10 times since the launch of the closed-loop program.

While the use of recycled plastics can prove difficult when looking to achieve quality consistency and reliability, HP's engineers, chemists, and partners developed recycled resins that meet the company's performance standards. According to HP Global Citizenship, "using recycled materials saves energy, avoids waste, supports the recycling infrastructure, and keeps plastic out of landfills."

To learn more visit: <http://www8.hp.com/ca/en/hp-information/environment/index.html>

