

# Eco-Criminals:

An incomplete list (3)

## (5) Tom Albanese

When it comes to long-term environmental destruction, the world's second largest mining company has done an outstanding job. Whether digging up rainforests in Madagascar, dumping toxic wastes into the oceans of Papua New Guinea, operating illegal open pit uranium mines in Africa, or smelching 125 million tons of lead and a host of other metals, Rio Tinto has worked efficiently over the past 12 years to establish that Jobs is a powerful business leader. The chairman is Tom Albanese, who has often been behind the pack. In 2006 Wired magazine described Apple as having "one of the worst recycling records in the American PC industry." A Mother Jones article the same year characterizes this company's environmental record as "rotten." In 2006 Greenpeace awarded Apple a 2-out-of-10 environmental rating.

In 2007 Jobs announced that it would beef up its recycling program and gradually phase out the use of BFRs and PVCs. Corporate publicity for Apple claims it is "at the forefront of the competition" in terms of environmental responsibility. It points out how lead has been essentially eliminated from CRTs in 2006. The introduction of arsenic-free glass in 2007 also won some kudos. And in 2008 Greenpeace gave this company a 7-out-of-10 rating, above Dell, LG, and Sony's 5.19/6! But excuse this little cold for a moment: the truth is that Apple is still not enough of a leader. In 2008: Perhaps 20% of apple products like iPods and computers are made in China? That's terrible. What's worse, the company's CEO, Steve Jobs, has been found to be less than honest about the company's environmental policies. He has even claimed that the company's environmental efforts are "revolutionary," while at the same time it has been reported that the company is sacrificing basic creature comforts to keep its costs down. What's going on here?

T Newfields

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