Public Policy
How Intel promotes innovation worldwide

Intel Public Policy

Environment & Energy

As an environmentally responsible manufacturer of energy-efficient products, Intel works with governments worldwide to help shape progressive and practical environmental and energy policies.

Background

The global significance of environmental and energy policies has grown in recent years. Governments are concerned about chemicals used in etching ever smaller circuits in silicon. Led by the European Union, governments also have increased their focus on the material content of electronic products, banning lead and other elements used in high-tech devices. Climate change has become a major public policy issue, driving increased focus on certain chemicals used in semiconductor manufacturing. While the semiconductor industry is not a major user of such chemicals, certain ones are essential to both our products and production processes. The growing focus on climate change and energy efficiency also has spurred a greater emphasis on regulations that can provide market opportunities for more efficient semiconductors. While these and other issues may initially arise in certain regions of the world, they often spread to other areas as environment and energy policies are increasingly global.

Intel reaches out to governments worldwide to help identify policies that address government and stakeholder concerns while, at the same time, preserving our industry's ability to operate and market its products. These activities have included leading industry efforts to implement voluntary measures that can make regulation unnecessary, such as an industry commitment to reduce emissions of high-global warming gases and an industry project with governments to eliminate the vast majority of uses of a family of chemicals known as PFOS. Intel currently is working to help shape governmental policies that recognize the role that semiconductors and other high-tech devices can play in improving energy efficiency, thus addressing climate change concerns throughout the world.

Key Issues

Climate change policy.

Intel believes that climate change is a significant issue that requires a serious response at the international and national levels. We have been involved for many years at the international level, supporting workable global approaches to address climate change. In the U.S., Intel supports a mandatory federal climate change regulatory program as well as the re-engagement of the U.S. government in international climate policy negotiations. Intel also believes that the information and communications technology (ICT) sector can play a significant role in driving energy efficiency and climate change mitigation. Intel supports the work of the European Commission (EC) and other government bodies to develop policies that realize the full potential of ICT to address climate change by helping to improve the energy efficiency of other sectors of the economy, while working with governments around the world to elevate this issue.

Key Issues (continued)

Energy efficiency policy.

Energy efficiency is a high priority for Intel in the design of our products. In the policy sphere, Intel has long supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR program as the best basis for globally harmonized energy efficiency requirements, and we have worked closely with the EPA and its partner, the EC, to shape ENERGY STAR and Energy-Using Products (EuP) Directive specifications that save significant energy without constraining innovation or device functionality.

Chemical legislation and regulation.

Intel supports the development of legislation and regulation that focus on the actual risks posed by chemicals in specific applications, rather than the theoretical hazards of the chemicals themselves, and we have worked to promote responsible chemicals management in the semiconductor industry.

End-of-life electronics.

Intel actively manages its own end-of-life electronics equipment and supports public policies based on a model of shared responsibility between manufacturers, retailers, consumers, governments, and recyclers.

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