

## CONSUMER-RELATED PROPOSALS

**Each and every one of us can, as consumers, do our part to help make technology conflict-free. We can ask ourselves: what role do we play in this consumer society? How can we, through our habits, our practices, our purchases, impact a globalised world and technology in particular?**

Authors like Adela Cortina write about "consumer citizenship" and argue that "every purchase is a vote". We can even take it a step further and say that not only what we buy, but how we buy and what we stop buying, is a political expression. That is, every time we decide to buy something or not, every time we decide what we want to buy or from where, we are sending messages that shape the way the world works.

**Before analysing concrete proposals, it is important to define conscious and transformative consumption. The CRIC (the Center for Research and Information in Consumption) provides two premises with which we fully agree.**

The first step towards conscious and transformative consumption is to consume less, and the second is to inform ourselves so that we can make the most environmentally friendly and sustainable purchases possible. Ready to take a closer look at these two concepts?

### 1- CONSUME LESS AND CONSUME WHAT YOU NEED

The first question to ask before making any purchase is whether it is truly necessary. Before replacing or buying a new product, really think about whether it is something you need. If you're buying a replacement for something, perhaps your broken item could be fixed, or maybe you could change how you use and care for your electronic devices to make them last longer. You can also replace broken parts.

### 2- SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

Once the option of not buying a new device has been ruled out, it's time to look for alternatives that make it possible to be as friendly as possible with the planet and all living things. When it comes to electronic devices, we can opt for second-hand devices, or look for those that offer greater durability (for example, modular devices such as Project Ara, devices like Fairphone that can be repaired with spare parts), those that have non-toxic elements (see Greenpeace's list of electronics) and those that respect the labour rights of the people who manufactured the device (see the Make It Fair and Enough Project campaigns for the issue of conflict minerals). Consumers can also research the mobile phone manufacturer or store policies and strategies on buying and replacing phones on a phone plan.

Finally, (more information in the e-waste file), we can also give phones a second life through recycling, or at a minimum ensure that it is processed and disposed of properly. We can also donate it to projects that help alleviate the effects of this consumerism.



# ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

## 10 COMMANDMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE BUYING

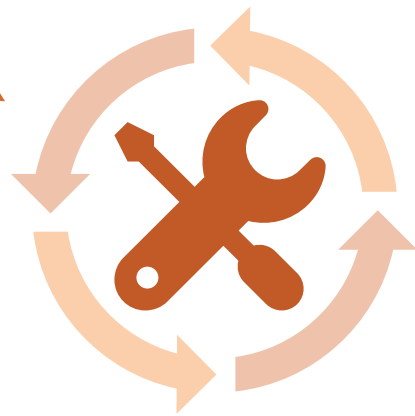


**Development:** Come up with a 10 Commandments for Buying Ethical Mobile Phone (or any other technological product).

We suggest this as a group activity, with everyone taking 10 minutes to brainstorm ideas and then sharing those ideas to create a final 10.


**Repair Party:** another option for the more adventurous is to plan a repair party.


You can find help and guidance on the Ifixit and Restart Project websites. Don't forget to send us a photo and tell us how it went.



## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

 **Ifixit website:** [www.ifixit.com](http://www.ifixit.com)

 **The restartproject website:** <http://therestartproject.org/about/>


 **Issues 29, 32 and 33 of Options magazine:**  
Issue 29: [http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones\\_cas-29.pdf](http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones_cas-29.pdf)  
Issue 32: [http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones\\_cas-32.pdf](http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones_cas-32.pdf)  
Issue 33: [http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones\\_cas-33.pdf](http://opcion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/opciones_cas-33.pdf)

 **Video: The story of Electronics:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW\\_7i6T\\_H78](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW_7i6T_H78)

 **Greenpeace Green Electronics Guide:**  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/climate-change/cool-it/Campaign-analysis/Guide-to-Greener-Electronics/>

 **Fridays for Future:** <https://fridaysforfuture.org/>

 **Community for the climate:** <https://poreclima.es/la-comunidad-poreclima>

 **Calculate your carbon footprint (esp):**  
<http://www.vidasostenible.org/huella-ecologica/>  
<https://www.ihobe.eus/publicaciones/herramienta-calculo-huella-carbono>

 **Environment and Electronic Devices (esp):** <https://www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org/medio-ambiente/>

 **ALBOAN's Environmental Guide (esp):** <http://www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org/guia-didactica-tlc-medioambiente/>

A project from:



[www.alboan.org](http://www.alboan.org)

For a:



[www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org](http://www.tecnologialibredeconflicto.org)

Cooperate:

