

FAIRPHONE

Press Release

For immediate release: 31 January 2017

Fairphone to focus on 10 materials in its effort to improve materials sourcing

Social enterprise assesses risks and opportunities in smartphone supply chain with assistance from The Dragonfly Initiative

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 31 January 2017 – Today, Fairphone announced a shortlist of 10 materials that offer the greatest potential to further research supply chain improvement: tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold, cobalt, copper, gallium, indium, nickel, rare earth metals. The list is the result of an assessment of 38 materials completed by [The Dragonfly Initiative](#), and provides a target selection that will guide Fairphone's responsible sourcing efforts in the years ahead.

A deeper look at sourcing issues

Fairphone was founded with the aim of opening up the consumer electronics supply chain, gaining a better understanding of how it works and taking action to make improvements. The company's smartphone is still far from 100% fair, but step by step, Fairphone is moving closer to its goal.

The development of the Fairphone 2 has allowed the social enterprise take a deeper look at the issues within its supply chain. For example, Fairphone recently worked with The Dragonfly Initiative to assess 38 different materials found in smartphones. The evaluation used a range of criteria – from consumption by the electronics industry, criticality for smartphone functionality and current recycling rates to mining-related social and environmental issues – to determine which materials' supply chains are associated with the most significant issues and which offer the greatest opportunities for improvement.

The results helped Fairphone create a shortlist of 10 materials (tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold, cobalt, copper, gallium, indium, nickel, rare earth metals) to focus on. While there are pressing issues associated with many of the materials analyzed, these 10 currently offer Fairphone the most potential for successful interventions and wide-reaching impact.

Building a platform for industry-wide change

By actively investigating the issues in their supply chain, Fairphone wants to use its commercial model to make improvements where they are needed most. As a first step, the company set up traceable supply chains [for tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold](#) – the four recognized conflict minerals.

However, transparent sourcing from conflict regions doesn't address a wider range of human rights and environment concerns. With this prioritized list of 10 materials, Fairphone will focus on further improving the four existing supply chains while evaluating the possibilities for making a positive impact in six more.

To create greater momentum to tackle the issues related to these materials, Fairphone is currently pursuing opportunities to collaborate with players spanning the electronics industry, including major brands, suppliers and non-profit organizations. It is also researching materials use from end-of-life perspective and will soon be publishing the results of a recyclability study.

Note to the editor

About Fairphone

Fairphone is a social enterprise that is building a movement for fairer electronics. By making a phone, we're opening up the supply chain and creating new relationships between people and their products. We're making a positive impact across the value chain in mining, design, manufacturing and life cycle, while expanding the market for products that put ethical values first. Together with our community, we're changing the way products are made.

www.fairphone.com

Photos, videos, fact sheets and other materials are available at the Fairphone press page: <https://fairphone.com/en/about/press/>

For additional information and interview requests, please contact:

Fabian Hühne

Email: fabian@fairphone.com

Tel: +31 20 788 44 02