

“We are creating change”: the ethical phone maker making business fair

The Guardian - Samuel Gibbs Consumer technology editor
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Pressures on society and the world thrown back into the spotlight by Covid-19, now is the time to readdress where and how we spend our money to do so in a way that is better for all, not only ourselves.

5 That means trying to buy as ethically and sustainably as possible, which for consumer technology covers both the materials pulled out of the ground and the way the products are made.

One company stands above all others as a pioneer of ethical electronics, the eponymous maker of the Fairphone 3 – the most ethical and repairable smartphone you can buy.

What is Fairphone?

10 Founded in Amsterdam in 2013, Fairphone makes an ethical smartphone.

It wants to transform electronics into an industry where taking care of people and the planet is a natural part of doing business.

15 The constant push for the latest device means that 1.4bn mobile phones are sold worldwide every year. Most people keep their phones for just 2.7 years and only 20% of those discarded are recycled.

There's also a human cost. From the mines to the factories, the entire electronics supply chain is **tainted by (1)** unsafe and inhumane working conditions, from long working hours to even child labour.

What can individuals do?

20 We encourage consumers to keep their phones for as long as possible. The longer you keep your phone, the lower the carbon footprint. But if you are looking to buy a new phone, consider the Fairphone.

(1) tainted by = tarnished by

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