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Computers are, on a weight for weight basis, more environmentally damaging to produce than cars. Research by the UN University in Tokyo indicates manufacturing of a standard desktop computer and 17-inch CRT monitor requires a total of 1.8 tonnes of materials, including at least 240 kilograms of fossil fuels, 22 kilograms of chemicals and 1,500 litres of water. A good place to start when choosing machines is the annual Computer Report Card produced by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (svtc.igc.org), which rates computer companies on their material use and end-of-life take-back policies. Minimise the need to replace computers so often by choosing models whose life can be extended through upgrades and repair.