

# How to prevent photovoltaic panels from being relabeled

Are solar panels safe to use?

While in use, solar panels safely generate electricity without creating any air emissions. However, like any source of energy, there are associated wastes that need to be properly recycled or disposed of when solar panels reach their end of life. As the solar photovoltaic (PV) market grows, so will the volume of end-of-life panels.

Why should you take precautions when installing a solar panel?

Taking every precaution will ensure minimal solar panel degradation rates and a longer lifespan for PV systems. The higher the degradation rate, the higher energy losses the PV system will experience throughout its lifetime.

What happens if a solar panel backsheet fails?

The main cause for solar panel degradation due to back-sheet failure is the delamination of the backsheet or the formation of cracks in the material. When the backsheet fails, the inner components of solar panels are exposed to external agents, and the lifespan of PV modules is reduced.

What happens if a solar panel is discarded?

Federal solid and hazardous waste regulations (i.e., the RCRA requirements) apply to solar panels when they are discarded. When a solar panel reaches the end of its usable life or is otherwise discarded, it becomes solid waste. Solid waste is regulated federally under RCRA Subtitle D and through state and local government programs.

Are solar panels regulated at end of life?

Find information here about different types of solar panels and how they are regulated at end of life. If you are disposing of solar panels that are hazardous waste, then regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) must be followed to make sure the panels are safely recycled or disposed of. On this page:

Can solar panels be repurposed?

It highlights that recycling or repurposing solar PV panels at the end of their roughly 30-year lifetime can unlock an estimated stock of 78 million tonnes of raw materials and other valuable components globally by 2050. If fully injected back into the economy, the value of the recovered material could exceed USD 15 billion by 2050.

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