



Purchase of abandoned photovoltaic panels

Can photovoltaic solar panels be disposed of in California?

The State of California passed Senate Bill 489 in 2015, which designated photovoltaic solar panels as hazardous materials; meaning the technology cannot be disposed of in landfills in the state. This poses a problem for decommissioning arrays, since California is the largest solar market in the United States.

Are solar panels ending up in landfills?

Solar panels purchased for home use under incentive programs many years ago are nearing the end of their life cycle. Many are already winding up in landfills. (Jim Cooke /Los Angeles Times) California has been a pioneer in pushing for rooftop solar power, building up the largest solar market in the U.S.

Does WFTSS recycle solar panels?

Prior to having in-house recycling, WFTSS had to send loads of decommissioned PV equipment overseas. Now, other solar contractors can send retired solar arrays to Fresno. "Safety is our main concern, and we want to try to be environmentally friendly at the same time," Latham said.

Can photovoltaic panels be recycled?

Most research on photovoltaic panels is focused on recovering solar-grade silicon to make recycling economically viable. That skews the economic incentives against recycling. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimated that it costs roughly \$20 to \$30 to recycle a panel versus \$1 to \$2 to send it to a landfill.

Do refurbished solar panels come with a warranty?

Refurbished: Some refurbished solar panels come with a refurbished warranty. These warranties have shorter coverage periods than new solar panels. Refurbished solar panel warranties range from three months to nine years. Some refurbished panels don't come with a warranty at all.

Where do solar panels go if they can't be shipped?

If panels can't be shipped to nearby states, they sit in stacks in California warehouses. To avoid bogging down other states' landfills with panels, RecyclePV of Grass Valley, California, opened a solar recycling facility in Arizona in the summer of 2018.

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