



PV CYCLE

Legal settings for recycling of PV Panels around the world

ISES Webinar – 29 October 2020

AGENDA



1. **GLOSSARY**
2. **WHO IS PV CYCLE**
3. **13 YEARS PV CYCLE - MILESTONES**
4. **FINAL ACTS – GLOBAL OVERVIEW**
5. **DRAFT ACTS – GLOBAL OVERVIEW**
6. **EUROPEAN UNION – IN DETAIL**
7. **QUESTIONS**

Intro Recycling

- **‘BACKFILLING’** means any recovery operation where suitable non-hazardous waste is used for purposes of reclamation in excavated areas or for engineering purposes in landscaping. Waste used for backfilling must substitute non-waste materials, be suitable for the aforementioned purposes, and be limited to the amount strictly necessary to achieve those purposes.
- **‘DISPOSAL’** means any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy.
- **‘EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY SCHEME’** means a set of measures taken by Member States to ensure that producers of products bear financial responsibility or financial and organisational responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product’s life cycle.
- **‘MATERIAL RECOVERY’** means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, inter alia, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling.
- **‘RE-USE’** means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived.

Intro Recycling

- **‘RECYCLING’** means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.
- **‘RECOVERY’** means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.
- **‘PREPARING FOR RE-USE’** means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.
- **‘WASTE’** means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.
- **‘(WASTE) TREATMENT’** means recovery or disposal operations, including preparation prior to recovery or disposal.
- **‘WASTE MANAGEMENT’** means the collection, transport, recovery (including sorting), and disposal of waste, including the supervision of such operations and the after-care of disposal sites, and including actions taken as a dealer or broker.
- **‘WASTE HIERARCHY’** means (a) prevention , (b) preparing for re-use, (c) recycling, (d) other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and (e) disposal.
- **‘WEEE’**: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

WHO IS PV CYCLE



Governance

- Legal form: **Not-for-profit association**
- PRO – **Producer Responsibility Organisation**
- Founded in **July 2007**
- Founding organisations: **private companies and industry associations**
 - Solarworld AG, Conergy AG, Sulfurcell GmbH, Schott Solar GmbH (Germany);
 - Isofoton SA (Spain);
 - Solar Power Europe (previously EPIA): the European PV industry association; and
 - BSW or Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft: the German PV industry association.
- **Why “Not-for-Profit” ?**
 - each company joining the PRO can become shareholder
 - does not distribute profit to its shareholders
 - PRO remains independent from any supplier: logistics or recycling / treatment
 - One Objective: striving for a zero cost for the industry

13 YEARS PV CYCLE



Milestones

- The **first** collective **take-back and recycling scheme** for used and discarded PV Panels worldwide
- Not-for-profit association
- **2007-2013: voluntary** scheme
- **2006: start of (Waste) Battery Obligations** in EU-28 – **see ‘Batteries’ within Energy Storage**
- **Since 2014: scheme steered by mandatory European WEEE- legislation** - Extended Producer Responsibility
- 2007-2016: geographical scope: Europe
- Since 2017: geographical scope: the Globe

- **June 2010 - kick-off of collection** network for PV Panels
- 2012 - **first 1.000 tonnes** of PV Panels collected
- 2014 - **extension of portfolio to all Electrical and Electronic Equipment**
- **2014** – Start of **WEEE Obligations for PV Panels and Inverters** in EU-28
- 2015 - **ISO 9001 & 14001** certification
- 2013 – 2016 – **offices** in UK, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Netherlands
- December 2017 – PV CYCLE **Italy** is present in **all** WEEE and Batteries
- **Collected and treated tonnage** (cumulative 2010 – end 2019) – **37.000 T**

WEEE: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (incl PV Panels, Inverters, and all other EEE)

FINAL ACTS

➤ EUROPEAN UNION – 28 COUNTRIES

DIRECTIVE ON WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT or
WEEE DIRECTIVE 2012/19/EU

Since 14 February 2014

➤ WASHINGTON STATE (USA)

SB 5939

By 1 January 2022 – PV Panel Stewardship and Take Back Program (Stewardship Program)

- **A SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS**
- **WHO IS PRODUCER / RESPONSIBLE**
- **OBLIGATIONS FOR THE PRODUCER**

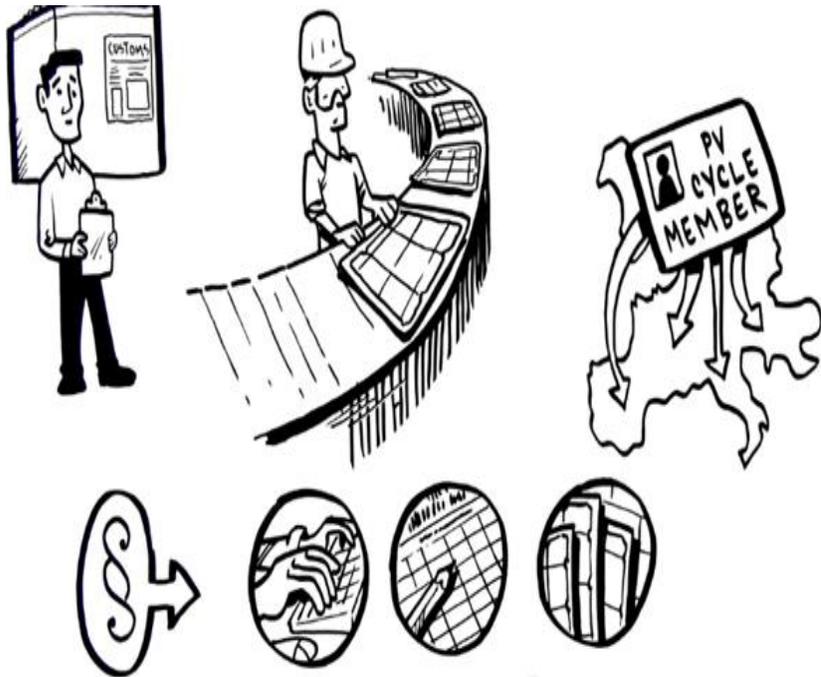
WHO IS 'PRODUCER' ?

A Producer is any natural or legal person who is **established in an EU country** and

- **manufactures and sells** under his own name or trademark in this country (**MANUFACTURER**)
- **resells** products produced by other suppliers (except where the brand of the original manufacturer appears on the product) within this country's territory **under his own name or trademark** (**DISTRIBUTOR / RESELLER**)
- **places products on a professional basis** from a third country or from another Member State on this market (**IMPORTER**)
- **sells by means of distance communication directly to private households or to users other than private households** in this country, and is established in another Member State or in a third country (**INTERNET / DISTANCE SALES**)

In a nutshell – **THE FIRST ONE BRINGING** THE PV PANELS or INVERTERS **ON THE TERRITORY OF THE COUNTRY**

WHAT ARE THE OBLIGATIONS FOR A PRODUCER ?



Obligation	WEEE	Battery
Organize take-back and treatment of your products	✓	✓
Register with national Producer (WEEE) register	✓	✓
Periodically report quantities of sold products to WEEE Register	✓	✓
Inform users on correct waste disposal 	✓	✓
Label your products	✓	✓
Ensure financing of current and/or future waste operations	✓	✓
Inform treatment facilities of product's composition and the use of hazardous materials	✓	

The symbol indicating separate collection for EEE consists of the crossed-out wheeled bin, as shown below. The symbol must be printed visibly, legibly and indelibly.

Thank you

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