



The first voluntary agreement of the European Photovoltaic Industry to collect and recycle used solar panels

Over thirty international manufacturers of photovoltaic modules who hold more than **70% of the European market** met together and concluded a **voluntary agreement to collect and recycle used photovoltaic modules** throughout the territory of the European Union.

Gathered within the association code-named “PV Cycle”, the promoters of this highly ambitious agreement plan to:

- Set target collection and recycling rates that are higher than the current obligations required by European regulations with regard to Waste Electrical and electronic Equipment (WEEE), namely a minimum rate of 65% for the collection of used solar panels and a minimum rate of 85% for the recycling of materials obtained from the used solar panels collected. These targets may subsequently be reviewed upwards.
- Provide specific and comprehensive information on the how to recover the solar panels and collection networks for users of photovoltaic modules. This information shall be made available by labelling the panels, posting on the producers' websites and additional specifications in the general terms of sale.
- Make available the collection and recycling facility free of charge for owners of used solar panels.

This agreement shall give room for considerable savings in natural resources thanks to the use of new solar panels made out of recycled materials, thereby making the **photovoltaic industry a “doubly green” sector**.

An independent committee bringing together representatives of community institutions, producers and non-governmental organisations (especially environmental protection associations) shall be in charge of assessing performance with regard to the objectives. The system will equally be audited on a regular basis by specialised independent companies.

Press contact:

Cabinet of Jean-Louis BORLOO
PV Cycle – Caroline CLAEYS

01 40 81 72 36
00 32 (0)2 743 66 56

Hôtel de Roquelaure – 246, boulevard Saint-Germain – 75007 PARIS

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr