



ZERO WASTE MARIN



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Phase 1

SOLAR PANEL REUSE TRAINING SUMMARY

The solar panel reuse training was a first-of-its-kind event in California. By bringing together a diverse group of professionals in the solar industry, the training event provided a platform to discuss the complexities of the current environment for solar panels at the end of life and what can be done to promote reuse and landfill diversion. The training event had 21 participants ranging in sector representation, including installers, contractors, recyclers, sellers, students, waste management workers, NGOs, consultants and local government workers.

Takeaways from Group Discussions:

- **Storage space and transportation costs** are barriers to widespread reuse. Traditional waste management facilities are not equipped to handle reuse.
- A **convenient collection** standard is necessary to promote reuse and landfill diversion.
- Market for **reuse completes with low cost of new panels**. During the pandemic RV applications skyrocketed and off-grid application demands are growing. Participants explored innovative approaches to promote sustainability within the solar industry.
- **Incentives for proper disposal and reuse** of panels will help shift industry with a clear path for safe and compliant reuse applications. This can also include better labeling and certifications/guidelines for reuse.
- The group recognized the **urgency of establishing policies**, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for solar panel reuse and repair, paving the way for more sustainable practices.
- **Next steps** involve planning and implementing additional training tailored to more specific targeted audiences to enhance engagement and impact.

When: October 18, 2024
9 AM - 3 PM

Where: Marin Builders Association
660 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903



Agenda

- 9:30 – 10:30:** Introduction lead by CPSC
- 10:30 – 11:00:** Solar Panel Reuse Discussion
- 11:00 – 11:30:** Testing demo lead by CCC
- 11:30 – 12:30:** Lunch
- 12:30 – 2:30:** Best End Use led by FabTech

Outcomes

- ✓ Key discussions on advancing reuse strategies
- ✓ Live demonstration on cleaning and testing solar panel efficiency
- ✓ Valuable networking opportunities



