

Solar Panel Reuse and Recycling Phase 2 One Pager

Executive Summary

Solar panel installation is rapidly increasing, driven by new regulations and California's ambitious climate and sustainability goals. In Marin County however, there are currently no proper disposal or recycling options for old panels. In Phase 1 of their Solar Panel Reuse and Recycling Pilot, CPSC, on behalf of Zero Waste Marin, conducted outreach in Marin County, May 2024 through September 2024, to understand the level of interest and desire for free collection and processing.

In phase 1, CPSC found that a majority of installers do not provide advice on end-of-life management. 67% of these respondents also had panels in storage waiting for recycling or reuse. Despite the high number of installers with panels, only 15% resell working panels for reuse. Utilizing the information and social media drafted in Phase 1, CPSC conducted free solar panel collection in Marin County September through January 2025 during Phase 2.

Phase 2 Progress Overview

- **Published promotional materials** for free solar panel collection events hosted in Marin County.
- **Conducted outreach** to installers on collection opportunities via phone and email.
- **Collected 110 panels** from installers and residents in Marin County.
- **Hosted inaugural Solar Reuse Training** and Certification in conjunction with CPSC.

67% of people requesting collection removed working panels to upgrade to a new model.

9 solar panels were recycled, and 101 were sent for reuse

Outreach

CPSC conducted outreach directly through phone calls, emails, advertisements in newspapers, and social media.

SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING IN MARIN COUNTY



Schedule a FREE pick-up for
your unwanted solar panels
through to 2024.

Developed by



ZERO
WASTE
MARIN



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/
MarinSolarCollection](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MarinSolarCollection)

CPSC staff reached out to 24 installers across the county directly via calls and emails in Phase 2. Additionally, the pilot's work was promoted in the American Solar Energy Society newsletter. Outreach to residents was conducted over social media and through advertisements in the Marin Independent Journal and American Solar Energy Society.

Marin Independent Journal

solar
panel
recycling
IN MARIN COUNTY

Schedule a FREE
pick-up for your
unwanted solar
panels through
November 23,
2024

Developed by
ZERO
WASTE
MARIN CPSC
California Product
Stewardship Council

 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MarinSolarCollectionF36223>



EXTENDED

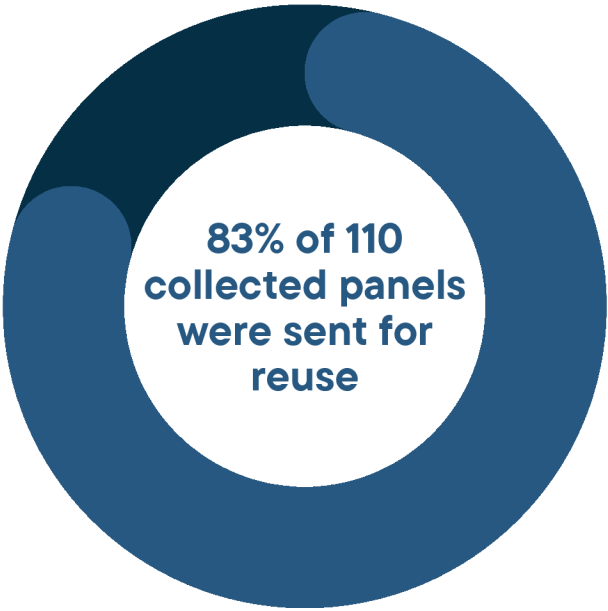
A solar panel recycling ad ran in the Marin Independent Journal November 27 through December 23, reaching 55,851 people.



SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING PILOT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Collection and Overview



83% of 110
collected panels
were sent for
reuse

What is the reason for needing collection?

- Upgrading to a new system
- Water damage
- Other

Case Study



14 panels were diverted to reuse alliance for a case study. This study demonstrates easy used solar panel testing and reuse potential, using panels to power a jackery solar generator. It also demonstrated the ease with which panels can be diverted for reuse.

60% of panels collected were removed from homes to upgrade to a newer system

Need for Collection

The overwhelming majority of panels collected during Phase 2 of the pilot were sent for reuse opportunities. The popularity of the collection event and number of panels sent for reuse proved the need for a state-run collection program, prioritizing reuse over recycling.



SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING PILOT

Solar Panel Pick Ups and Reuse

CPSC partnered with the California Conservation Corps North Bay for solar panel collection.

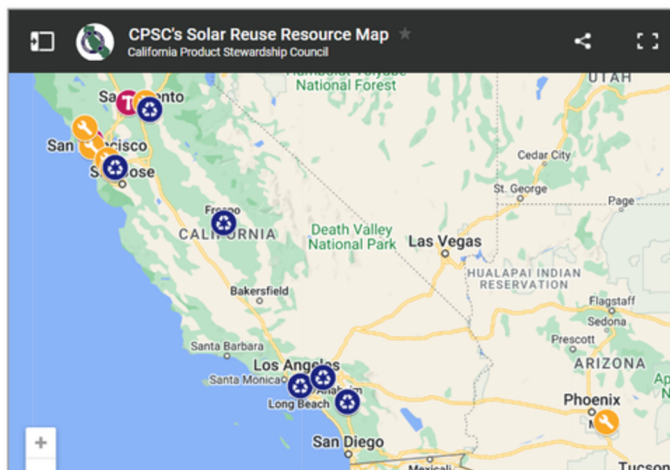


CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY

A path to a better future.



In Phase 1, CPSC worked alongside potential reuse partners in Marin County and built upon those relationships in Phase 2, including adding them to the solar map.



Legend

- Installers and Contractors
- Reuse Collection Sites
- Recyclers



recycle1234.com



Reuse Alliance



**ZERO
WASTE
MARIN**

SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING PILOT

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CPSC was awarded the RE-X Before Reuse Prize from the Department of Energy during Phase 1. Utilizing these funds and funding from Zero Waste Marin, CPSC hosted an Inaugural Solar Panel Reuse Training and Certification. Solar panels from the collection event were utilized in the training.

Solar Reuse Training

Attendees

The Inaugural Solar Panel Reuse Training boasted 21 participants ranging in sector representation including installers, contractors, recyclers, sellers, students, waste management workers, NGOs, consultants, and local government workers.



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Next Steps for Solar Reuse



Implement Website
updates for ZWM

Report Release



Ongoing education
and reuse events

Ongoing FREE solar
panel collection



Outreach

Phase 3

- Continue free collection events in Marin County
- Collaborate with other counties engaged in solar reuse
- Secure reuse partners and collaborations for additional solar reuse events
- Hold a webinar or an in-person meeting(s) with installers and other stakeholders
- Attend local reuse fairs
- Expand solar reuse map



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