



COMMUNITY OF PUBLIC BUYERS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLAR PV

Advancing green & ethical solar procurement across the EU

In 2023, the European Union's solar market share expanded to **40%**, reflecting its strong commitment to sustainable development and the acceleration of renewable energy adoption. This surge in **solar photovoltaic (PV) adoption** underscores the need for a **unified approach** towards sustainable and responsible procurement practices, especially in the **public sector**.

The **Community of Public Buyers for Sustainable Solar PV**, hosted on the **Public Buyers Community Platform**, plays a crucial role in this transition, leveraging the collective power of public procurement to drive a market shift towards more **sustainable solar energy solutions**.

>>>> Mission

To accelerate the transition to sustainable PV technology in the EU, focusing on reducing environmental impact, enhancing durability, and promoting ethical practices in the solar industry.

CHALLENGES

- Carbon footprint**
Mainstream solar PV modules generate a significant carbon footprint due to energy-intensive production processes.
- Toxic substances**
Use of hazardous materials in solar panel production poses risks to health and the environment.
- Durability**
Increasing the technical lifespan of solar panels to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.
- Labour conditions**
Ensuring ethical labour practices in the solar panel supply chain.
- Recycling**
Enhancing the recycling rates of solar panels to minimise their ecological impact and support a circular economy.



OBJECTIVES

- Low carbon panels**
Promote the development and adoption of solar panels with reduced carbon footprints.
- Material innovation**
Research and advocate for alternatives to toxic substances in solar panel manufacturing.
- Life extension**
Support technologies and practices that extend solar panels' technical lifespans.
- Ethical sourcing**
Implement standards for fair labour conditions along the solar panel production chain.
- Recycling programmes**
Develop and expand solar panel recycling programmes to improve sustainability.

The **Public Buyers Community Platform** offers resources and a network of peers aiming to make sustainable solar PV the standard in the EU.

RESOURCES

Market insights on available PV modules, including sustainability issues.

Tender templates for public tenders, incorporating sustainability criteria.

Contract templates for engagements with Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractors/project developers, and for Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) contracts for large PV installations.

Best practices for insurance and quality inspections to ensure financial and operational security.

Eco-friendly installation guidelines, including design requirements and best practices for environmentally friendly PV installations, whether on land or bodies of water.



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT



Economic efficiency

Longer-lasting solar panels offer better returns on investment and lower the cost of solar energy over time.



Environmental protection

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and ecological footprint of solar energy production.



Health and safety

Lowered risk of exposure to toxic materials for workers and communities.



Social responsibility

Ethical sourcing supports human rights and promotes fair labour practices.



Resource conservation

Improved recycling reduces the need for new raw materials and mitigates waste.



Visit the **Public Buyers Community Platform** to discover the **Community of Public Buyers for Sustainable Solar PV**, and much more!

#PublicBuyersCommunity

