



PV Recycling Partner Application Process

The Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA®), in support of the renewable energy industry's drive towards a circular economy, manages the only National PV Circularity Program. As a key part of circularity, reuse, refurbishment, and recycling of solar equipment is critical to resource recovery and improving downstream markets.

The SEIA program provides industry, SEIA members, and external stakeholders with a vetted list of quality recycling and refurbishment service providers. It is of note that the U.S. EPA provides guidance in defining "sham recycling" on their website. The SEIA National PV Circularity Program's vetted list of recycling partners aims to make industry, its members, and stakeholders aware of the risks and liabilities associated with "sham recycling" through a SEIA-led due diligence process.

Solar equipment recyclers seeking to apply for SEIA's National PV Circularity Program as a recycling partner must follow these steps:

Step 1: Start the process by contacting Clare Lapointe at clapointe@seia.org to express interest. Please include a general description of your company and the services offered. SEIA will then request additional information. Note that SEIA does prioritize facilities in specific areas.

Step 2: Provide the requested necessary documentation including operating permits, general process description, annual recycling capacity, relevant certifications, insurance documentation, and other requested information including a non-disclosure agreement.

Step 3: Await SEIA's desktop review of all documentation to ensure initial qualifications are met.

Step 4: SEIA will schedule a video conference to discuss detailed operational considerations, downstream management, regulatory issues, and any potential gaps in the provided documentation.

Step 5: SEIA will schedule an on-site due diligence visit to the main recycling processing location. This visit will include an initial presentation by the recycler to highlight qualifications and capabilities and a facility tour to confirm the process and its effectiveness as described in the documentation. Occasionally, a SEIA member or industry stakeholder may request to take part in the visit subject to the recycler's approval, and all participants will sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Step 6: Upon completion of Steps 1-5, the SEIA will conduct a final review of all information to determine the recycler's ability to meet SEIA's requirements. After the decision is made, SEIA will notify the recycler of the next steps. Upon acceptance into the program, the recycler will be added to the partner list on SEIA's website. SEIA will provide recyclers that do not yet meet the requirements with written details outlining areas that need improvement. SEIA encourages recyclers to remain engaged with SEIA while they make the necessary changes for reconsideration.

Note: SEIA has limited resources to conduct on-site assessments. While SEIA tries to accommodate recyclers as quickly as possible, SEIA may defer on-site assessments based upon availability.

SEIA is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI®) accredited national standards developer and currently developing a PV Recycler standard with industry and stakeholders. Once published, all SEIA recycling partners will be required to demonstrate compliance with the future standard. For more information, visit <https://seia.org/initiatives/standards-development/> or contact standards@seia.org.