

What is the economic sustainability of photovoltaic panel recycling?

The economic sustainability in photovoltaic panel (PV) recycling is crucial. Ag content, recycling volumes and recycling fees play crucial roles in sustainability. A recycling fee is needed if the silver concentration in PVs is lower than 0.1%. Earlier Investments on PV recycling projects will be more profitable.

How will PV panel waste impact the future?

As the global PV market increases, so will the volume of decommissioned PV panels, and large amounts of annual waste are anticipated by the early 2030s. Growing PV panel waste presents a new environmental challenge, but also unprecedented opportunities to create value and pursue new economic avenues.

Is solar PV waste a general waste?

Solar PV waste generally categorized as a general waste by the regulatory aspect, except in the EU, since PV panels in these countries are described as e-waste as stated in the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

Is PV panel recycling economically viable?

Despite the clear environmental benefits documented in various studies, the economic viability of PV panel recycling remains a significant barrier. D'Adamo et al. focuses on the uncertainty of PV recycling profitability.

Will solar PV waste be recycled by 2040?

Based on the swift growth in the installed PV generation capacity, we propose that the number of EOL panels will necessitate a strategy for recycling and recovery which need to be established by 2040. CO₂ emissions could also be reduced by recycling solar PV waste which will consequently pose substantial positive impact on the environment.

How is photovoltaic waste treated in India?

India recycling regulations: As of now, India lacks specific rules and regulations dedicated to the management of photovoltaic (PV) panel waste, and it is currently treated under general waste regulations (Preet et al., 2023).

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