

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

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Comment: "The replacement rate of solar panels is faster than expected and given the current very high recycling costs, there's a real danger that all used panels will go straight to landfill (along with equally hard-to-recycle wind turbines).

Solar's pandemic-proof performance is due in large part to the Solar Investment Tax Credit, which defrays 26% of solar-related expenses for all residential and commercial customers (just down from 30% during 2006–2019).

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)'s official projections assert that "large amounts of annual waste are anticipated by the early 2030s" and could total 78 million tonnes by the year 2050. The threat is hidden by the fact that IRENA's predictions are premised upon customers keeping their panels in place for the entirety of their 30-year life cycle. They do not account for the possibility of widespread early replacement.

The industry's current circular capacity is woefully unprepared for the deluge of waste that is likely to come. The totality of these unforeseen costs could crush industry competitiveness. If we plot future installations according to a logistic growth curve capped at 700 GW by 2050 (NREL's estimated ceiling for the U.S. residential market) alongside the early-replacement curve, we see the volume of waste surpassing that of new installations by the year 2031.

The same problem is looming for other renewable-energy technologies. For example, barring a major increase in processing capability, experts expect that more than 720,000 tons worth of gargantuan wind-turbine blades will end up in U.S. landfills over the next 20 years.

China is the number 1 supplier of solar panels and I don't think we need to support them over our own country. They take huge amounts of land and disrupt the wild life. Water is clean energy and I think we should keep investing in it, since we have it at our disposal. "

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