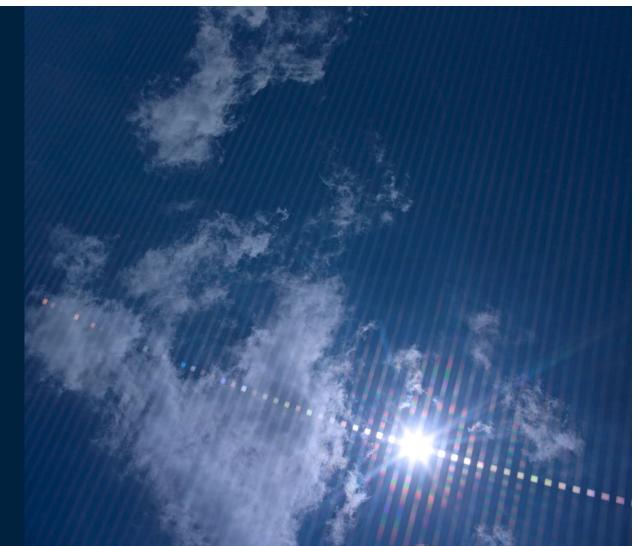
#### SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING & EPR

Parikhit (Ricky) Sinha, Ph.D. Sr. Scientist, Sustainability Research parikhit.sinha@firstsolar.com

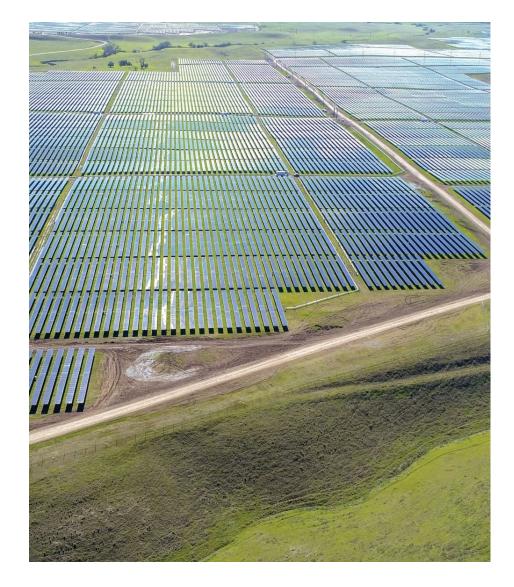
Northeast Recycling Council & NEWMOA webinar 20 September 2022



LEADING THE WORLD'S SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE



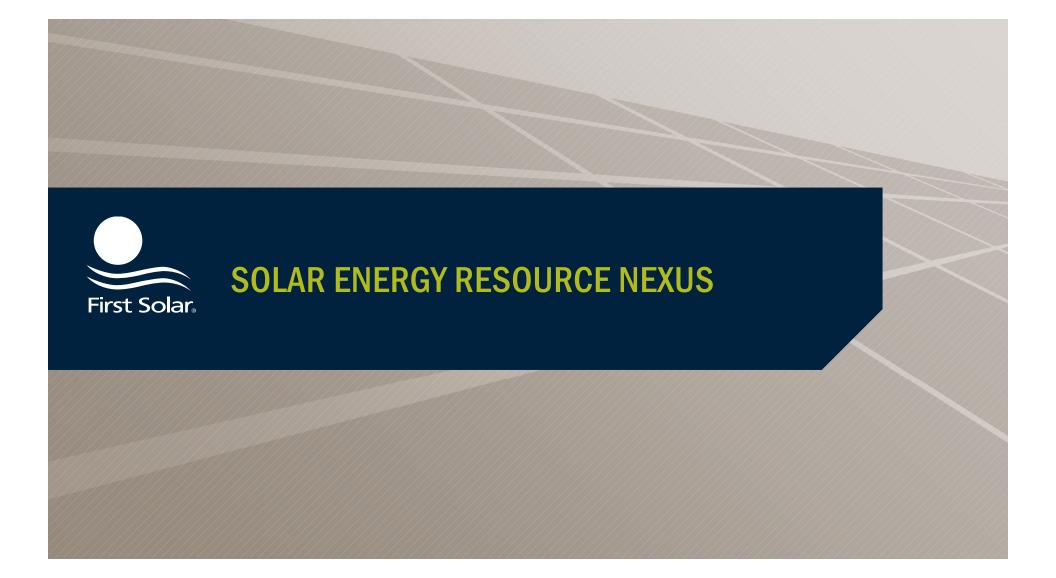




# THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S LARGEST SOLAR MANUFACTURER

- Differentiated thin film technology designed and developed in America
- Higher lifetime energy, with lower levelized cost of electricity (LCOE)
- Financially stable with industry leading bankability
- Lowest carbon PV technology and lowest life cycle environmental footprint

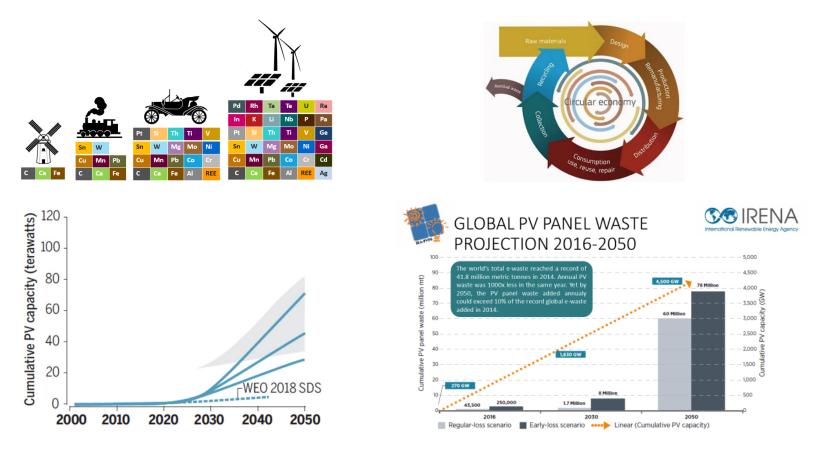




## SOLAR RESOURCE IS VERY ABUNDANT ...



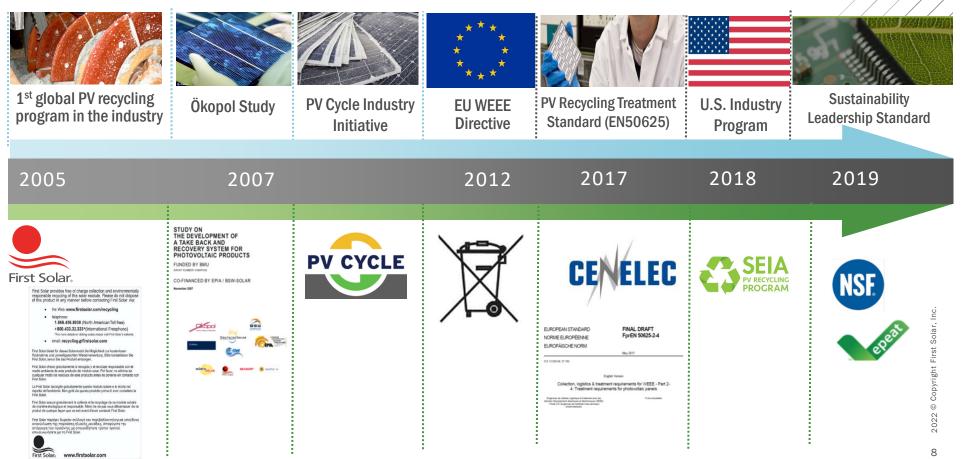
Source: R. Perez et al, "Renewable Energy Our Solar Future"



## CIRCULARITY IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR TERAWATT-SCALE PHOTOVOLTAICS

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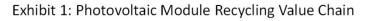
#### A SHORT HISTORY OF PV RECYCLING

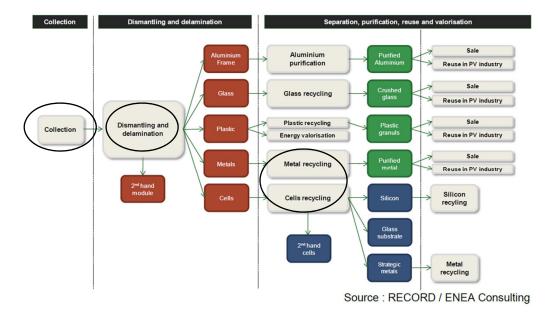




## **KEY TECHNICAL CHALLENGES TO RECYCLING**

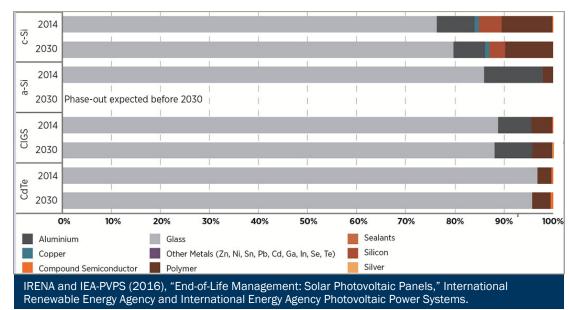
- Delamination
  - Efficient encapsulant (e.g., EVA) removal
- Collection reverse logistics
  - Waste classification
  - Transport
- High value recycling
  - Need PV-specific recycling standards





### **BENEFITS OF HIGH-VALUE RECYCLING**

- PV modules consist of glass, aluminum, copper, and semiconductor materials that can be successfully recovered and reused
- By weight, more than 80% of a PV module is glass and aluminum
- High-value recycling recovers environmentally sensitive, valuable and energy-intensive materials
- Recoverable value could exceed \$15bn by 2050 (IRENA & IEA PVPS, 2016)



#### Maximizes resource recovery and increases the sustainability of PV.

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#### FULLY INTEGRATED RESPONSIBLE PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE APPROACH



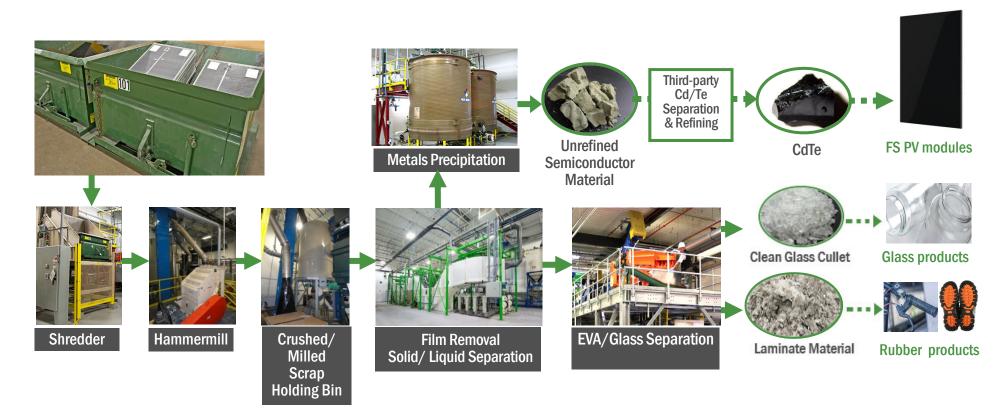
2022 © Copyright First Solar, Inc

## **INDUSTRY-LEADING PV RECYCLING SERVICES**

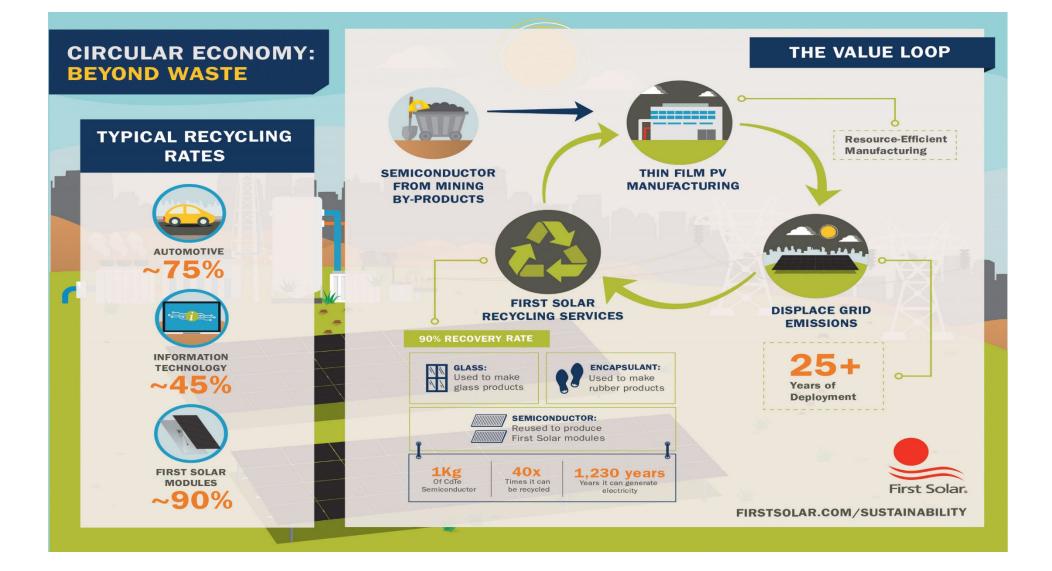
- Established 1<sup>st</sup> global PV module recycling program in the industry
- 10y+ experience operating PV recycling facilities in Germany, Malaysia, Vietnam and the U.S. with ~200,000MT recycled
- Proven and scalable technology to accommodate future high volumes (global capacity of 2 million modules)
- Recovering over 90% of semiconductor materials and approximately 90% of glass for reuse
- Continuously improving processes and technology and reducing operational costs



### FIRST SOLAR'S MODULE RECYCLING PROCESS



+ 90% Recycling of Semiconductor Material and ~ 90% Recycling of Glass





# LEADING THE WORLD'S SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE