



ZERO WASTE MARIN



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Phase 1

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Contacts: Joanne Brasch, PhD, Director of Advocacy and Outreach
California Product Stewardship Council
(916) 597-3972
Joanne@calpsc.org

SOLAR PANEL EVENTS IN MARIN COUNTY TO COLLECT, REUSE, AND RECYCLING SOLAR PANELS

(San Rafael, CA) – As the demand for more efficient and powerful solar panels rise, the number of unwanted panels for disposal are expected to increase. Zero Waste Marin, working with the [California Product Stewardship Council \(CPSC\)](#), is leading a pilot project to collect and reuse or recycle unwanted residential solar panels in the Marin County.

As part of the pilot project, CPSC Staff conducted interviews with installers and reuse businesses across the county to ascertain their interest in the project and willingness to reuse unwanted panels. Forty-four percent of solar panel installers in the County believe that accessible drop-off is the greatest way solar panel recycling can be improved. To make solar panel recycling more accessible, Zero Waste Marin and CPSC will be offering solar panel collection events for residents.

Marin County residents with unwanted solar panels can fill out an [appointment request](#) and CPSC will work with the CA Conservation Corps to pick-up the panels September 23rd through October 23rd. These appointments are FREE for residents. Commercial properties can arrange for a pick-up appointment for a small fee. Working panels will be tested and diverted to Recycle1234 for a special sale. Note: Recycling1234 does not accept solar panels from the public. Nonworking solar panels will be transported to CEAR (California Electronic Asset Recovery) for recycling.

ATTENTION MARIN COUNTY RESIDENTS:

Free Solar Panel Collection Event

Have unwanted solar panels? Upgrading to a new system? Fill out this short form to schedule a pick-up September 23 - October 23.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MarinSolarCollection>

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All solar panels larger than 3” (measured diagonally) coming from residential uses are eligible for pick-up. Results of the solar panel collection pilot will be used to inform the County and State of the product types in this growing waste stream and recommendations for future programs.

Following this collection event, CPSC and Zero Waste Marin will be hosting a Solar Reuse Training Event. This event is for solar panel installers and those interested in solar panel reuse and repair in Marin County. This course will provide hands-on experience and practical knowledge from industry experts on the local and national level. We are thrilled to have Janette Freeman from Fabtech Enterprises share her years of expertise. This course will cost \$100 to attend, with scholarships available. Attendees will receive a certificate from the Marin Builders Association upon completion. To apply, fill out the application [here](#).

The reuse training event is sponsored in part by Phase 1 of the Department of Energy Energy's Re-X Before Recycling prize.

Currently, the United States manufacturing sector predominantly follows a linear model of production in which raw materials are sourced, manufactured into products and parts, used, and then discarded. To fully decarbonize the U.S. economy, the county must create new, circular supply chains to keep materials in use beyond a single life cycle. A crucial aspect of a circular economy involves waste collection and reuse. While recycling is important, extending the lifetime of products through reuse can ultimately save more energy and emissions over time.

The purpose of this prize is to advance innovative designs to keep materials in use beyond one life cycle, increase recovery and reuse rate of products to reduce the energy and carbon of manufactured goods, strengthen regional manufacturing supply chains, create jobs, and more. We are inviting viewers to follow and participate. If you are interested, please contact info@calpsc.org.

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Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority (JPA), or Zero Waste Marin is comprised of representatives from Marin's 11 cities and towns and the County of Marin. Zero Waste Marin's mission is to protect natural resources by promoting source reduction of waste through reuse, repair, and more mindful purchasing. For more information, please go to: zerowastemarin.org/

California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educating both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility. CPSC partners with business, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers, and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices. For more information, please go to: www.CalPSC.org.

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