

Help conserve water by choosing solar panels that are responsibly made: A call to action for homeowners and businesses

Munich, Germany, December 21, 2023 – In the pursuit of environmental sustainability, homeowners and businesses are increasingly turning to solar panels to reduce their carbon footprint. While clean energy solutions are vital in combating climate change, it is essential to pay attention to the broader environmental impact of the manufacturing processes behind these clean technologies.

The energy supply sector is with around 35% currently the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, with residential and commercial buildings consuming over half of all electricity.¹ Despite the positive impact of solar panels in reducing carbon footprints, their production involves resource-intensive processes, including the use of water.



REC Group's solar cells and panels production site in Singapore

Water plays a crucial role in the production of solar panels. From the purification of silicon, the base material for solar cells, to the final module assembly, the manufacturing process consumes significant amounts of water, particularly in the energy and heat-intensive initial stages. With global climate change affecting rainfall patterns², water conservation has become an imperative global concern.

Recognizing the environmental challenges, socially responsible manufacturers, including those in the solar panel industry, are actively seeking ways to conserve and recycle water. One such exemplar is REC Group, a leading solar panel manufacturer with a commitment to responsible and sustainable practices.

Continuously driving energy, water, and waste savings programs, REC Group has set ambitious goals for its solar panel manufacturing facility in Singapore. By 2024, REC aims to reduce water consumption from the production of solar cells by 5% and for solar panels by 10%. In line with Singapore's water scarcity, REC ensures that water used during manufacturing processes is treated and recycled, significantly reducing the overall environmental impact.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/facts-and-figures>

² <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-us-and-global-precipitation#:~:text=Just%20as%20precipitation%20patterns%20vary,areas%20to%20experience%20decreased%20precipitation>



Water
Water Saving & Recycling Programs

- **171,487 m³** water saved/year – equivalent to annual water usage of ~2,973 people

Energy
Energy Saving Initiatives
Clean Solar Power Generation

- **2,190 t CO₂** emissions saved/year

Waste
Non-hazardous Waste
Hazardous Waste

- **31,581 modules** sent for recycling

SOLAR'S MOST TRUSTED 

Through REC's focus on responsible manufacturing, specific water consumption decreased from 761 m³ per MW of solar panels produced in 2021 to 628 m³ per MW in 2022, representing a notable 17.5% reduction. This translates to an annual water saving of approximately 171,487 m³, equivalent to the water usage of almost 3,000 people in Singapore.

In addition to responsible water management, REC actively harvests rainwater for use in cooling towers after filtration. By investing in stormwater collection facilities, REC aims to increase rainwater harvesting capabilities, projecting water savings of about 10,000 m³ per year.

Homeowners who want to play their part in mitigating climate change can choose responsibly made solar panels as a tangible way to make a greater positive impact and lower more their environmental footprint.

While going solar is doing good, how much good can vary greatly. At REC, we want to help you to choose solar panels more responsibly!

Go for solar panels that are designed with:

- ✓ Longevity to save resources
- ✓ High-power density for less emissions
- ✓ Reliable high-power output for the long-term
- ✓ Lead-free design for easier recycling
- ✓ Strong Due Diligence for an ethical supply chain
- ✓ Committed Energy, Water & Waste Savings Programs
- ✓ Engaged teams to empower communities in need

HIGH QUALITY AND ROBUSTNESS
25 YEARS PROTRUST WARRANTY

430 W_{MP}
223 W_{MP}

LEAD-FREE
ROHS COMPLIANT

MIN. 92% POWER AT 25 YEARS



Read more here: www.recgroup.com/save-water

This article is part of REC's educational series on how to choose solar panels more responsibly. Previously published articles are available here:

[Reduce Waste](#)
[Higher Power- Lower Footprint](#)

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About REC Group:

REC Group is an international pioneering solar energy company dedicated to empowering consumers with clean, affordable solar power through high-quality solar panels with a leading power density. As Solar's Most Trusted, REC is known for its patented innovations and multiple award-winning products with reliable long-term performance. The cornerstone for REC's strong reliability is advanced and highly efficient manufacturing using Industry 4.0 practices. Founded in 1996 in Norway, REC has always been committed to a low carbon footprint in its solar materials and panels. REC is headquartered in Norway with operational headquarters in Singapore and regional hubs in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. As of December 2021, REC is part of Reliance Industries Limited, India's largest private sector company with revenues of USD 118.6 billion.

Find out more at recgroup.com and on    YouTube  