

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Phase 2 (September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025), CPSC, on behalf of Zero Waste Marin, hosted a reuse training event, conducted outreach, continued solar panel collection, and gathered reuse ideas from Marin County residents. The pilot collected 255 panels over the course of seven months. Out of these panels, 226 were marked for reuse and 29 were recycled. CPSC, along with our project partners, published a microgrid case study and will be moving forward with reuse installations in Phase 3.

## I. IN-PERSON EVENTS

### A. REUSE TRAINING

The Department of Energy selected CPSC for the Re-X Before Recycling Prize. This project established the first Solar Panel Repair Training held in collaboration with Zero Waste Marin at the Marin Builders Association in October 2024.

The event had 21 participants, including installers, contractors, recyclers, students, NGOs, consultants, waste management workers, and local government workers. Through this event, participants held key discussions on advancing reuse strategies, watched a live demonstration on cleaning and testing solar panel efficiency, and were able to network with fellow professionals in the solar industry.

Find more information about the event in the [reuse training report summary](#).

## B. REPAIR FAIR

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, CPSC partnered with Zero Waste Marin and Reuse Alliance to host a repair fair in Marin County. Residents brought items for free repair and learned from an on-site expert how to repair their items. CPSC brought a solar panel from the pilot collection for repair.

Through this event, residents received hands-on guidance on how to measure a solar panel's capacity and efficiency and learned about the importance of extending the lifespan of solar panels through repair/reuse rather than disposal.

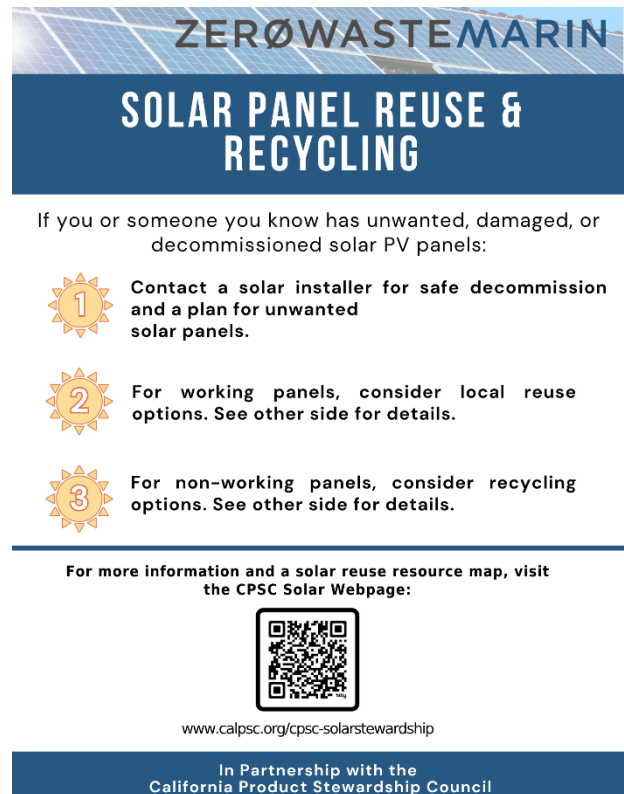
Find more information about the event in the [repair fair one page summary](#).

## II. OUTREACH

CPSC created multiple graphics to promote solar panel collection/recycling in Marin County and provide information on solar panel reuse locations and opportunities.

### A. OUTREACH CONTENT

- [Solar Installer Survey Graphic](#)
- [Join Our Solar Reuse List](#)
- [Solar Collection Promotion](#)
- [Solar Panel Reuse Case Study](#)
- [CPSC Solar Webpage](#)
- [Solar Panel Reuse/Recycling Flier](#)  
(Page 1 shown on the right)




**ZERØWASTEMARIN**

## SOLAR PANEL REUSE & RECYCLING

If you or someone you know has unwanted, damaged, or decommissioned solar PV panels:

- 1** Contact a solar installer for safe decommission and a plan for unwanted solar panels.
- 2** For working panels, consider local reuse options. See other side for details.
- 3** For non-working panels, consider recycling options. See other side for details.

For more information and a solar reuse resource map, visit the CPSC Solar Webpage:



[www.calpsc.org/cpsc-solarstewardship](http://www.calpsc.org/cpsc-solarstewardship)

In Partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council

## B. ANALYTICS

- Total Impressions from 7 posts (6/27/24 – 5/2/25): 44,704
- CPSC Website Visitors (1/1/25 – 6/1/25): 3,971
- Shown Below: A solar panel recycling ad ran in the Marin Independent Journal from 11/27/24 – 12/23/24, reaching 55,851 people

**LOCAL NEWS**

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 4:07 PM (PACIFIC STANDARD TIME) LOCAL NEWS

**MILL VALLEY**  
Residents near PG&E repairs upset about noise, air quality

**MODE APPLICANTS**  
Fairfax rules for short-term rentals relaxed

**SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING IN MARIN COUNTY**

Schedule a FREE pick-up for your unwanted solar panels through to 2024.

**STANLEY STEEMER**

Your Trusted Industry Leader for 70 years!

**ALWAYS:**  
Our Yellow van with the logo  
All Technicians in uniform  
**NEVER:**  
A Subcontractor!

A Clean Home for the Holidays  
**15% OFF**  
Any Cleaning Service

**SOLAR INSTALLERS: TAKE A 5-MINUTE SURVEY**

[bit.ly/4cE8llL](https://bit.ly/4cE8llL)

**ZERO WASTE MARIN**

**CPSC**  
California Product Stewardship Council

## III. SOLAR PANEL REUSE

Through the pilot, we collected 255 unwanted solar panels, with 89% of them eligible for reuse. We launched an application for Marin County residents/installers to [submit project ideas](#) that would utilize these free, used solar panels.

## A. REUSE CASE STUDIES

We accomplished and published a collaborative reuse study that shows one how to create a small micro-grid using a free solar panel, a portable battery, and a few cords.

Reuse Alliance completed a test of their own micro-grid. They aim to use this study in their future repair fairs. CPSC promoted the publication on our website and posted the graphic on the right on all our social media platforms.

For a step-by-step guide, please read the [full case study](#) funded by CPSC, Zero Waste Marin, Reuse Alliance, and the Department of Energy Re-X Prize.

## B. PROJECT APPLICATIONS

CPSC and Zero Waste Marin are providing funding, up to \$1,500, for four projects. We received 9 reuse applications with 4 self-installed projects.

Here are a few solar panel reuse project ideas Marin County residents/installers submitted:

- Shade for a patio while producing power for a home office and work shed
- Power an irrigation system to aid the growth of a school community garden
- Heating system for a backyard pool

Phase 2 will aim to accomplish one project application.

**SOLAR PANEL REUSE: MICROGRID CASE STUDY**

Read the full case study [here!](#)

- 1 Obtain a used solar panel
- 2 Test the panel's voltage and current
- 3 Acquire a portable power station
- 4 Using connectors
- 5 Read the full case study to make your own reused solar backup system

Funded By

Reuse Alliance CPSC California Product Stewardship Council ZERO WASTE MARIN AMERICAN MADE MANUFACTURING PRIZE

## IV. PROGRESS REPORTS

### A. PHASE 1

In Phase 1, CPSC built out a database of installers in Marin County and conducted outreach consisting of: installer interviews, social media and website content, and solar panel pick-up collection and reuse request applications.

The top permitted solar installers in the County were found to be:

- Solarcraft Services
- Semper Solaris Construction Inc.
- Pac Solar Corporation
- Better Earth Electric Inc.
- Northern Pacific Power Systems Inc.

Find more information on Phase 1 in the [progress report](#) published in July 2024.

### B. PHASE 2

In Phase 2, CPSC partnered with the California Conservation Corps North Bay to launch solar panel collection. Furthermore, CPSC staff conducted outreach via phone and email to 24 Marin County installers regarding collection opportunities. Solar panels collected previously were utilized in the Solar Panel Reuse Training and Certification event hosted in Marin County.

Find more information on Phase 2 in the [progress report](#) published in February 2025.

## V. SOLAR PANEL COLLECTION

Pick-Up Date	Number of panels	Year of Panels	Reuse	Recycling
10/8/2024	30	N/A	21	9
10/8/2024	2	2011		2
10/29/2024	15	2004	15	
10/29/2024	6	2023		6
12/10/2024	40	1995	40	
12/17/2024	16	2010	16	
1/7/2025	1	2021		1
4/8/2025	12	2004	12	
5/27/2025	2	2023		2
5/27/2025	71	2017	71	
6/3/2025	60	N/A	51	9

## VI. PHASE 3: NEXT STEPS

For a seamless transition between the phases, the application for solar panel collection will remain open and the campaign material will maintain cohesiveness.

- Finalize the budget for each objective
- Promote ongoing solar panel collection
- Complete more reuse case studies from project applications
- Host up to three in-person educational events