



# Cape Town downgrades PV module exports





## Overview

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North America leads with 40% market share, driven by streamlined permitting processes and tax incentives that reduce total project costs by 15-25%. Europe follows closely with 32% market share, where standardized container designs have cut installation timelines by 60% compared to traditional.

PR) regulations. The brief also highlights the potential for a “circular economy pipeline scenario” when South Africa’s large-scale solar PV modules reach their end of life, which would likely require the upscaling of end-of-life solutions, including those for reuse, refurbishment, and recycling.

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The South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA) is expecting the domestic market to recover this year to the record installation levels achieved two years ago, following a marked slowdown last year. CEO Dr Rethabile Melamu tells Engineering News that installations fell by more than 50%.

These include use of critical and toxic materials in PV modules as well as the chemical pollution issues associated with it. Additionally, the rapid expansion of PV module installations raises concerns about proper disposal of modules, particularly in geographic regions without waste regulations.

through the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement



Programme (REIPPPP). Although initial REIPPPP bid windows had stringent local content requirements, a large number of manufacturers have closed down since the onset of the first large-scale RE projects. A core reason is that the. Why is PV module recycling a high-cost & low-revenue solution?

As per the IEA, the current low volumes of EOL PVs, lack of efficient recycling technologies, logistics challenges, and undeveloped markets for recovered materials result in a high-cost, low-revenue scenario of PV module recycling. However, there are examples of market leaders in this space.

Are PV modules a waste hazard?

These include use of critical and toxic materials in PV modules as well as the chemical pollution issues associated with it. Additionally, the rapid expansion of PV module installations raises concerns about proper disposal of modules, particularly in geographic regions without waste regulations.

How can PV manufacturers reduce energy consumption?

Some of the decarbonization strategies that PV manufacturers can employ at the facility level include using renewable energy sources in manufacturing facilities and improving energy efficiency in manufacturing processes to reduce energy consumption .

What is the future of PV installation?

The annual PV installation forecast beyond year 2030 shows slight decreases in annual installations for China and Europe but increases in India and the North American & Caribbean regions. Advances in the PV industry also bring environmental and social sustainability concerns.



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### PV Module recycling as a necessity for future PV development

These companies collect broken and decommissioned solar PV modules from across the country, disassemble them, and segregate the components for different recycling solutions.

### Solar PV installations expected to recover strongly this year after

However, there are also signs of a recovery in the residential market, spurred by rising Eskom and municipal tariffs, and the fall in prices for PV modules, batteries, and inverters.



**12.8V 200Ah**



### Drivers, barriers and enablers of a South African circular solar PV

The study adds to the body of knowledge in providing a potential framework for the development of a circular economy for PV modules in South Africa and offers broad policy ...

### Viable African export markets for South African renewable ...

Increased investment in solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind power by SACU members, with Botswana and Namibia setting clear energy goals, presents



export opportunities for South ...



## **Understanding Downgraded PV Module Exports Opportunities ...**

Summary: This article explores the growing market for downgraded PV module exports, analyzing their applications in solar projects, cost-benefit trade-offs, and global demand trends.

Learn ...

## [Exporting Solar Power to the Grid , AWPower](#)

When applying for approval to install a solar PV system (SSEG) at City of Cape Town, it should specifically be stated if export functionality is required. It is also possible to ...



## [Solar PV installations expected to recover strongly ...](#)

However, there are also signs of a recovery in the residential market, spurred by rising Eskom and municipal tariffs, and the fall in ...





## UNDERSTANDING DOWNGRADED PV MODULE EXPORTS

On 11 March 2025, the results of the China Datang Group's 2025-2026 PV module framework purchase tender were announced, with the spot price of n-type modules increasing from ...



## **PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES AND INVERTERS**

In 2023, GEC added low-carbon performance criteria that require PV manufacturers to meet a stringent GHG emission threshold for module production, awarding manufacturers ...

### **Solar PV modules**

This section provides an overview of the relevant legislation and legal requirements for solar PV producers and those involved in the management of end of life solar PV modules.



### Exporting Solar Power to the Grid, AWPower

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## **Solar PV sector provides many opportunities for South Africa, but ...**

He was addressing a media conference in Cape Town. Consequently, he cautioned against trying to create solar PV module manufacturing capability in South Africa.





## Contact Us

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