

# JBR Recovery Ltd

Incineration : Smelting : Refining



The importance of efficiently recycling spent PV solar panels

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Lee M Hockey – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

# Agenda



- Introduction to JBR Recovery Ltd
- Energy production and PV solar panel's role in global decarbonisation
- Make up of a PV solar panel
- Silver market overview and Silver in PV solar panels
- Current PV solar panel recycling
- Future processing options and company activities
- Horizon - EVERPR Project - Consortium
- Conclusion

# Introduction to JBR Recovery Ltd



## Background

- Over 260 years History of smelting and refining of precious metals in the UK
- Member of the LBMA with Ag outputs having London Good Delivery status
- Can process various materials, in many forms and grades containing Gold, **Silver**, Platinum and Palladium
- Only secondary Ag only refiner that refines **Ag ONLY from secondary sources ie Green Silver**
- Refined and produced ~ 50 M ozs Good Deliver Silver in 2022
- Fully permitted site with EA permit number BJ9878 and hazardous waste registration NIB077
- ISO 14001 Environment Management System
- Fully secured site with 24/7 manned security and high value vault
- Members of the LBMA, IPMI and the Silver Institute with a global customer base and from many market sector
- **Can now SUPPLY 999 and 9999 LGD market bars and 999 and 9999 Silver Grain**

## Materials Refined

**Photographic** Industrial film, medical x-rays, rolls, paper, emulsions, water treatment sludges, fixer solutions, recovery residues

**Electronics** Circuit boards, pastes, pots, inks, manufacturing rejects, MLCC's, impregnated wipes, ceramic substrates, targets, batteries

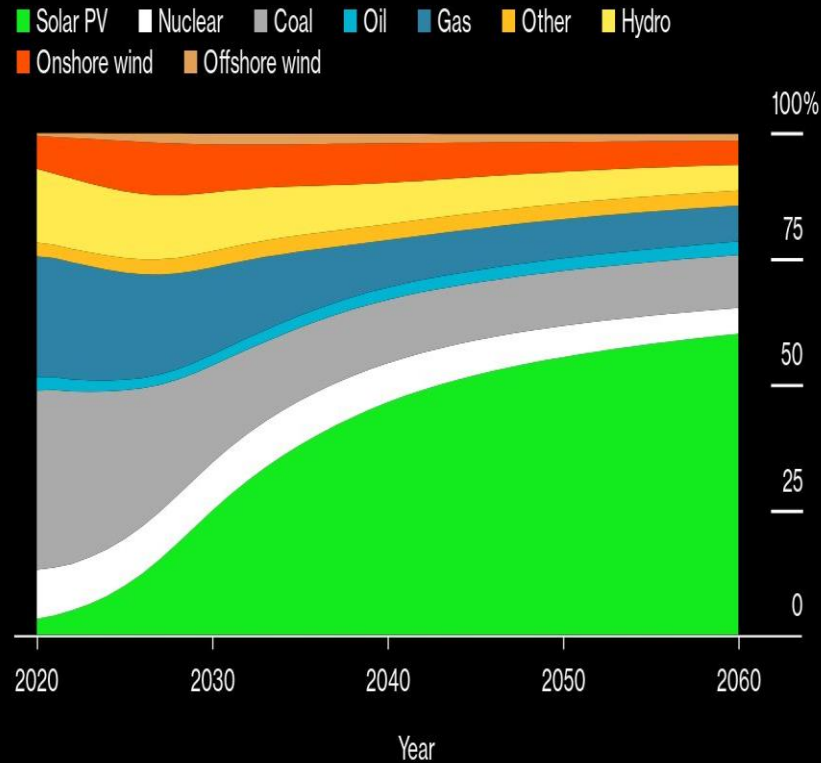
**High Grade** Dore, jewelry, coins, bars, bullion, non good delivery bar conversion, grain, flakes

**Others** EO Catalysts, other industrial catalyst, Ag Chlorides, litharge's, Lead wastes, solar panel wastes, sweeps & residues

# Energy production and PV solar panel's role in decarbonisation

## A Dramatic Shift in Global Electricity Production

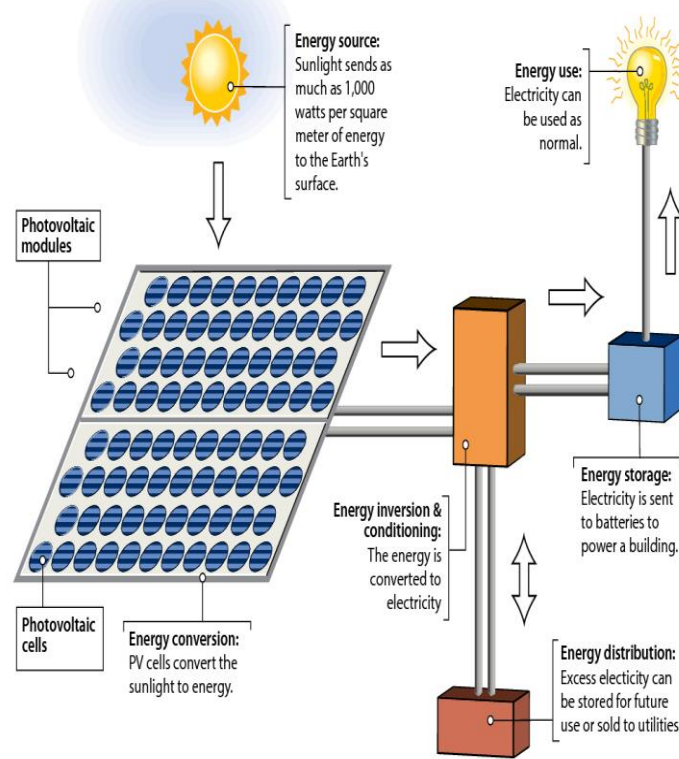
Fossil fuels are expected to produce 21% of electricity in 2050, down from 62% in 2020. Solar will account for 56% of electricity production in 2050.



Source: "The momentum of the solar energy transition" in Nature Communications

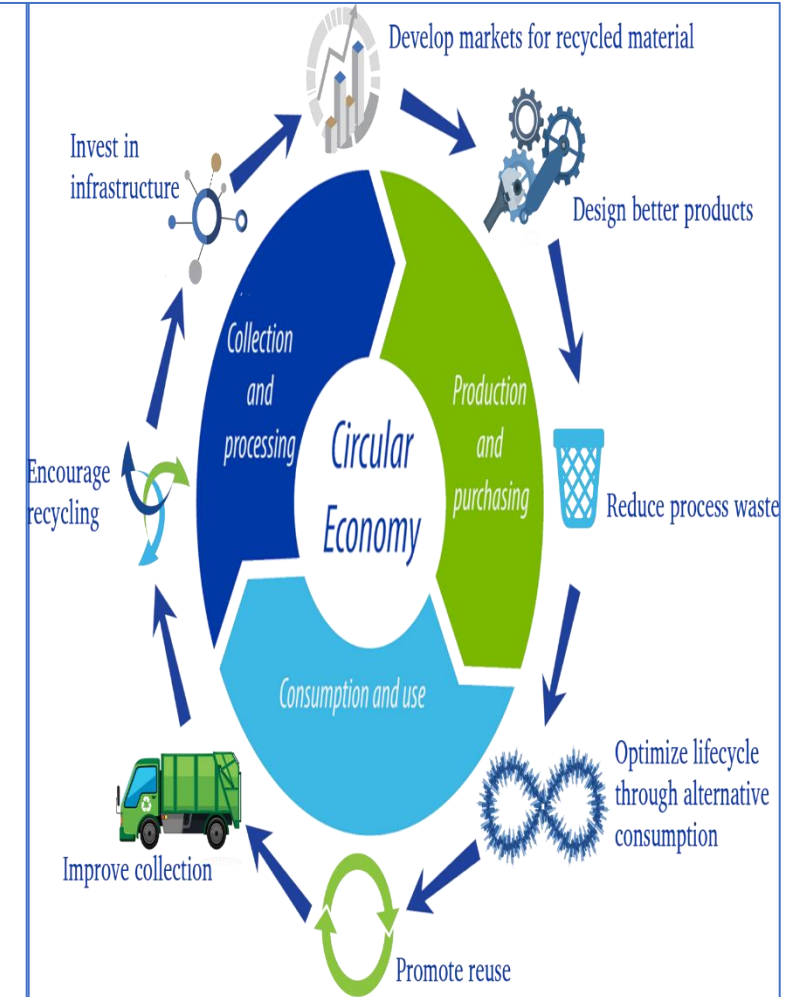


## How photovoltaic solar panels work

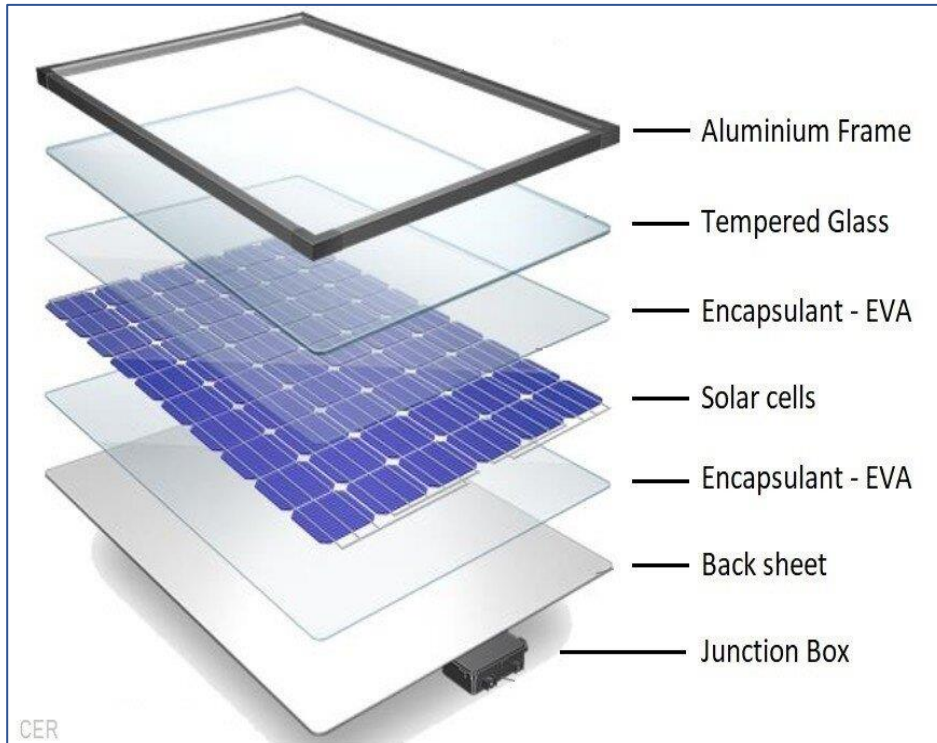


Source: Florida Solar Energy Center

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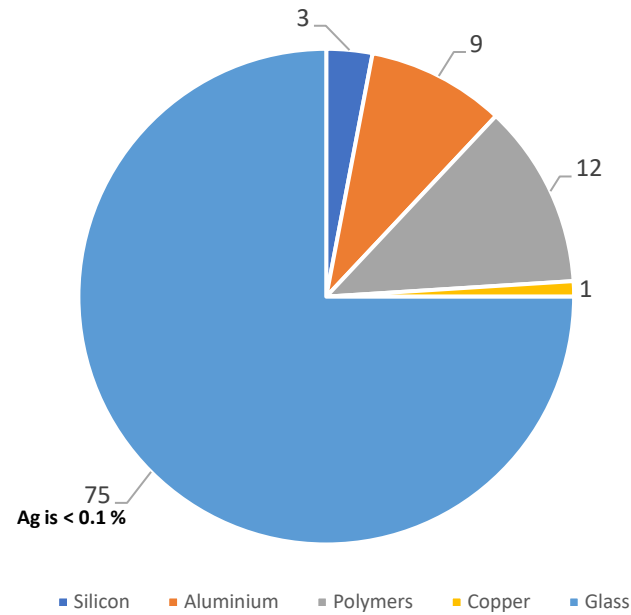


# Make up of a PV solar panel

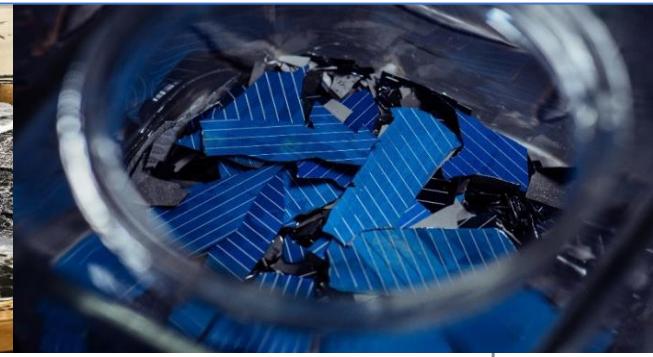
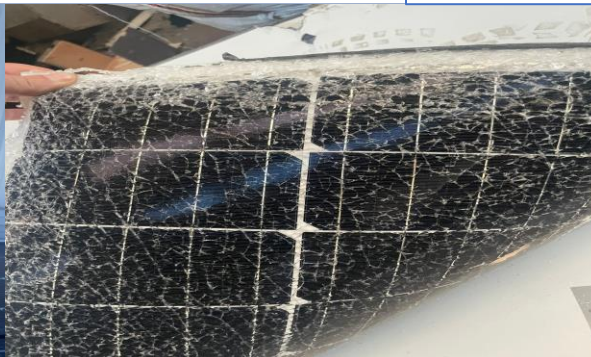
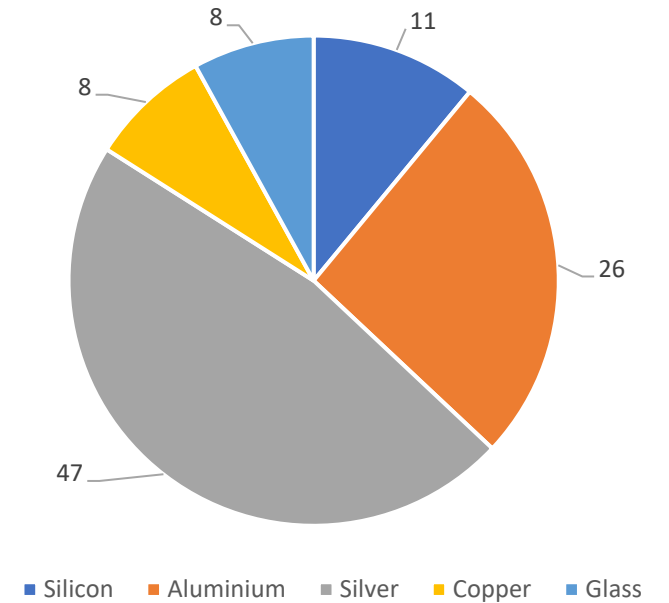


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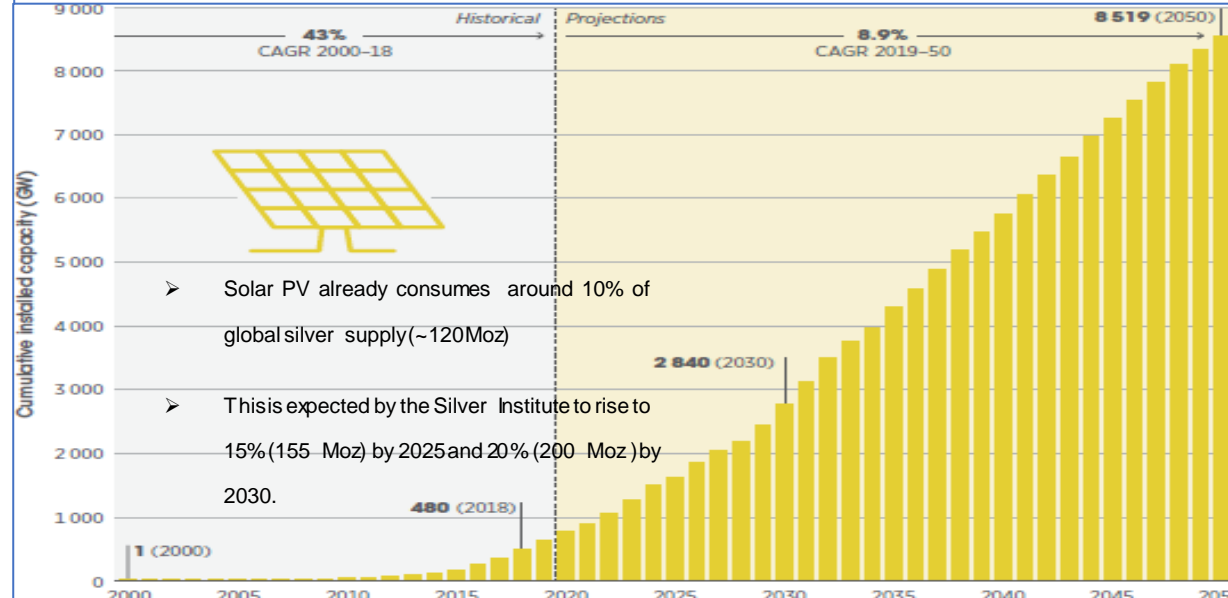
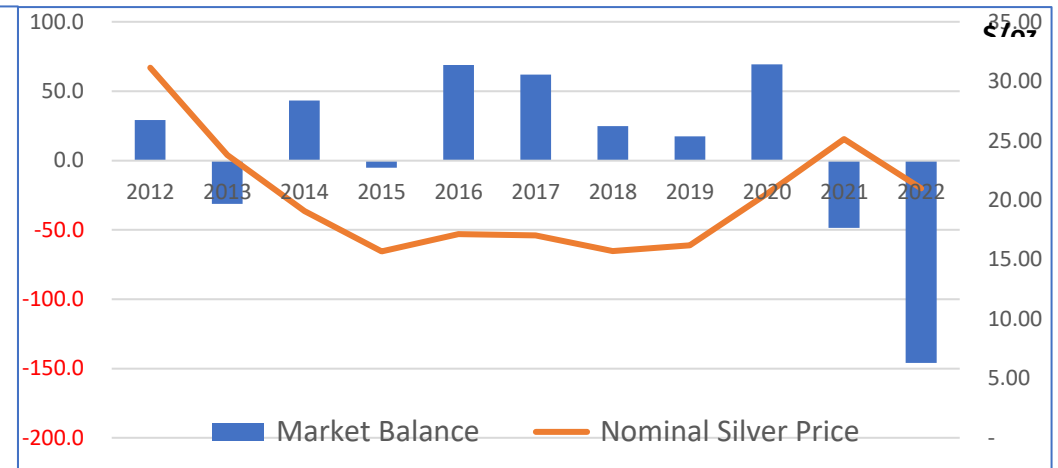
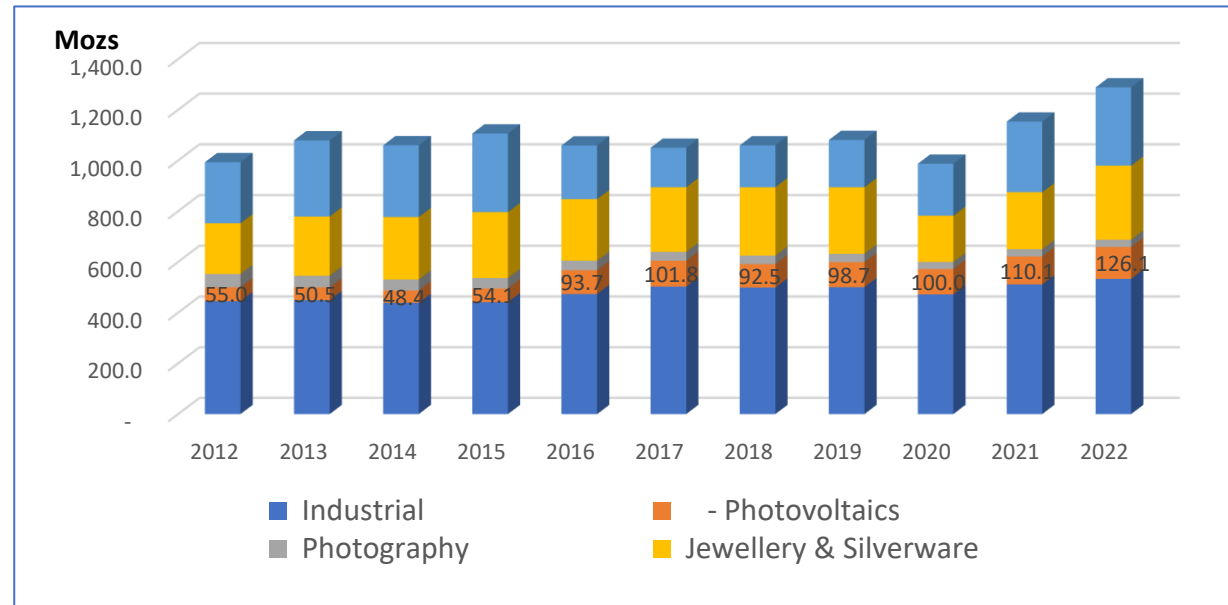
Percentage make up of a PV solar panel by mass



Percentage make up of a PV solar panel by value



# Silver market overview – Ag in PV solar panels



## Commentary

- Current Silver market is in a structural deficit but it is supported by significant above ground stocks
- Silver demand within the PV solar panel market continues to be strong with ~100 M oz's fresh Silver demand per year growing to 200 M ozs by 2030, current Silver installed in PV solar panels is over 1 B oz's
- There is continued thrifting of Silver in 2000 loading was 0.18 gm/watt current loadings are 0.02 gm/watt
- Silver is less than 0.1 % of the weight of a solar panel but 47 % of the value
- Current installed capacity is ~ 1,000 GW which equates to > 1 M solar panels. General life of a solar panel is 25 years before it loses its efficiency

# Current PV solar panel recycling

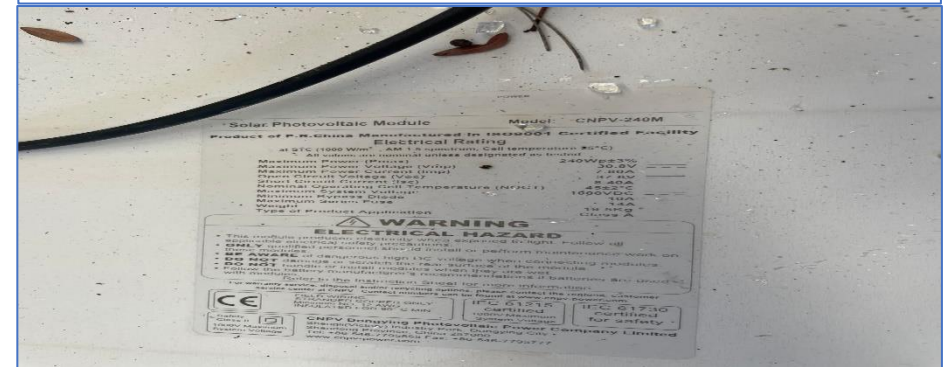
## PV Solar Panels Materials of construction

- Aluminium framing *Recoverable*
- Glass *Non recoverable*
- Silver *Recoverable*
- Copper *Recoverable*

## Current Market Dynamics

- Material currently mainly landfilled
- Starting to see (15 years) first panel recalls / change overs
- Earlier solar panels are much richer in Silver
- Aluminium framing is already a \$5 billion per year business
- Grades of Silver vary (after Aluminium) removal
  - Shredded panels 0.25 – 0.5 % Ag
  - Wafers after removal of silica panels 0.5-1.0 % Ag
- Some early players, mainly in US for whole panels, wafers can be refined by many precious metal refiners

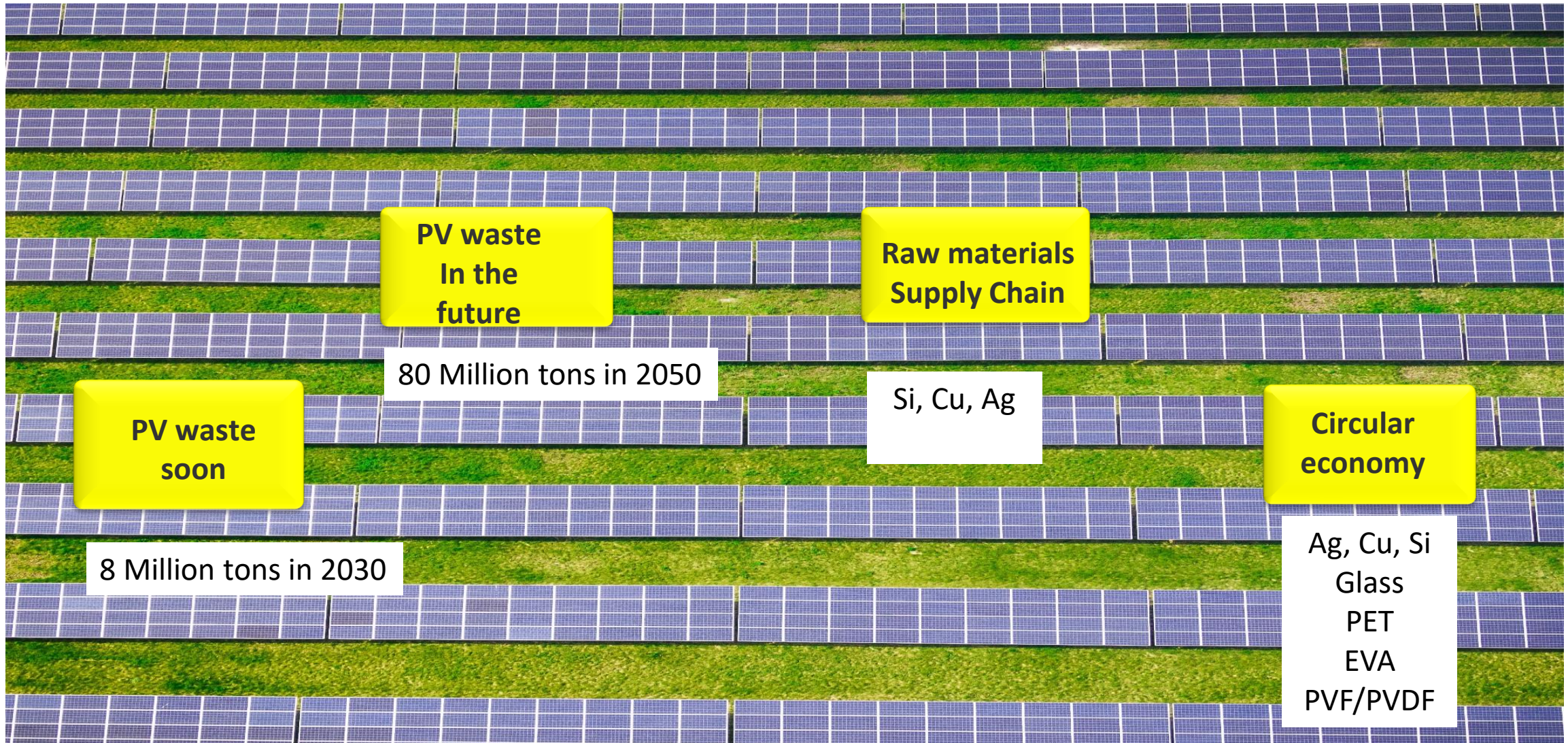
Currently treated same as e scrap in terms of licences and shipments



Most panels are landfilled and are charged to be disposed of

Type	€/Ton
With alumina frames	160€
W/out alumina frames	300€
Amorph	350€
CIS (Copper Indium Selenium)	400€
CCS (carbon capture storage)	450€
Tellurium Cadmium	500€

# Future processing options and company activities





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## Current Processing

- Material appears to be entering EOL supply chain via the same channels as e scrap
- ~ 50 companies said to be active in solar panel recycling (18 Europe, 12 USA, 5 Australia)
- Company types appear be PV manufacturers, e scrap collectors, specific PV recyclers and waste companies
- Limited entrance by precious metal companies (mainly wafers)

## Patents

- 15 patents filed for PV Recycling
- 10 patents are ex China and all Universities or Institutes

## New projects (looking to recover other elements and streamline the processing) being set up some with EU funding

- Rosi Solar                      with Envie, Soren, Flaxres, Evonik (Germany)
- Photorama                    with Enea, Enel Green Power (Italy)
- Everpv                         see next slide (France)

## Other companies

First Solar (USA)

Solar Cycle (USA)

WeRecle Solar Inc (USA)

Renewi (Belgium)

Ademe (France)

Suny Group (China)

# Conclusion



- Global climate change is driving the world to energy transition, decarbonization and a circular economy
- Solar power will produce over 50 % electricity by 2050
- Silver demand within the PV solar panel market continues to be strong with ~1 M ozs fresh Silver demand per year with an installed capacity of over 1 B ozs Silver
- We are starting to see thrifting of Silver within new modules to try to limit fresh Silver demand as GW demand continues to grow
- Given a general life cycle of a solar panel being 25 years there could be as much as 8 M mt's of panels to recycle by 2030 and 80 M mt's by 2050
- Recovery of all critical materials (Ag, Cu, Silicon) rather than land fill are crucial to make the above happen
- We are starting to see material available for recycling but mainly being landfilled which is not politically or economically efficient
- There are a growing number of players within the recycling, mainly waste companies or PV related companies with a small number recovering the Silver
- It will be crucial that this number grows and projects related to recovering all elements succeed to ensure we manage the major growth in this sector and the supply / demand for Silver
- Timing will be crucial !

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Please take a look at our website for further information about the company and detailed descriptions of our processes:

[www.jbr.co.uk](http://www.jbr.co.uk)

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