



Risskov Teknik og Solar

EU's new circular economy rules will transform the solar business

2026 CHANGES: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS OUR VIEW AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE PROPOSAL

JANUARY 2026



EU's new circular economy Act rocks!

The European Union's new circular economy regulations, set to be adopted in 2026 as part of the Clean Industrial Deal, will profoundly reshape the solar energy sector in Denmark

It may sound like a lot of big words and concepts, but at its core this is a strong call for more transparency – and that is something we fully support.

The Circular Economy Act will require companies in the solar sector to take greater responsibility for recycling and reusing materials such as solar panels and batteries once they reach end-of-life.

Why does this matter? Because it reflects a genuine shift toward sustainable resource use and a decarbonized society. As more solar systems are installed, we must be certain they can be recycled at the end of their lifetime. That's how solar becomes a truly sustainable business – not a future waste problem.





Renewable energy — especially solar energy, is now a mature, fast-growing part of our energy system

Renewable energy is no longer niche. Over the past decade, solar and wind have expanded quickly across Europe. In Denmark, our climate goals and strong commercial adoption mean renewable energy is now leading the way. That's also why this Act matters: it strengthens the sustainability of the clean energy that is becoming Denmark's main energy source.

With this rapid growth, new questions naturally come up — questions you and we both ask. What happens when solar panels, inverters, or batteries reach the end of their life? We pay the WEEE fee today, and we trust that proper recycling will happen. But what does that recycling actually involve? What does it really mean? Just because a system is dismantled and sent to a recycling center doesn't mean it simply disappears.

That's why it's essential that regulations push manufacturers to design solar panels with recycling in mind. Without this, we risk weakening the benefits of clean energy by creating materials that could end up causing even more pollution

The new Circular Economy Act aims to address exactly this challenge

One of its key proposals is to create **dedicated waste categories for renewable energy equipment – including solar panels, inverters, batteries, and wind turbines**. With clear categories, it becomes faster, easier, and more transparent to understand the actual waste levels.

And as we know: when we understand the problem, we can find the solution. With transparent waste data, manufacturers can design products that become better and better to recycle over time.

For solar companies and system owners, this means circularity must be part of project planning, design, and procurement. How? By embracing these rules early – something we have done since our foundation in 2011 – and by asking the right questions about materials and end-of-life handling. This should not create concern or slow down investments in solar. On the contrary, support must continue because it benefits everyone.

Benefits in brief

In short, this Act will:



Make it easier to track materials



Ensure proper recycling and reuse



Hold manufacturers accountable

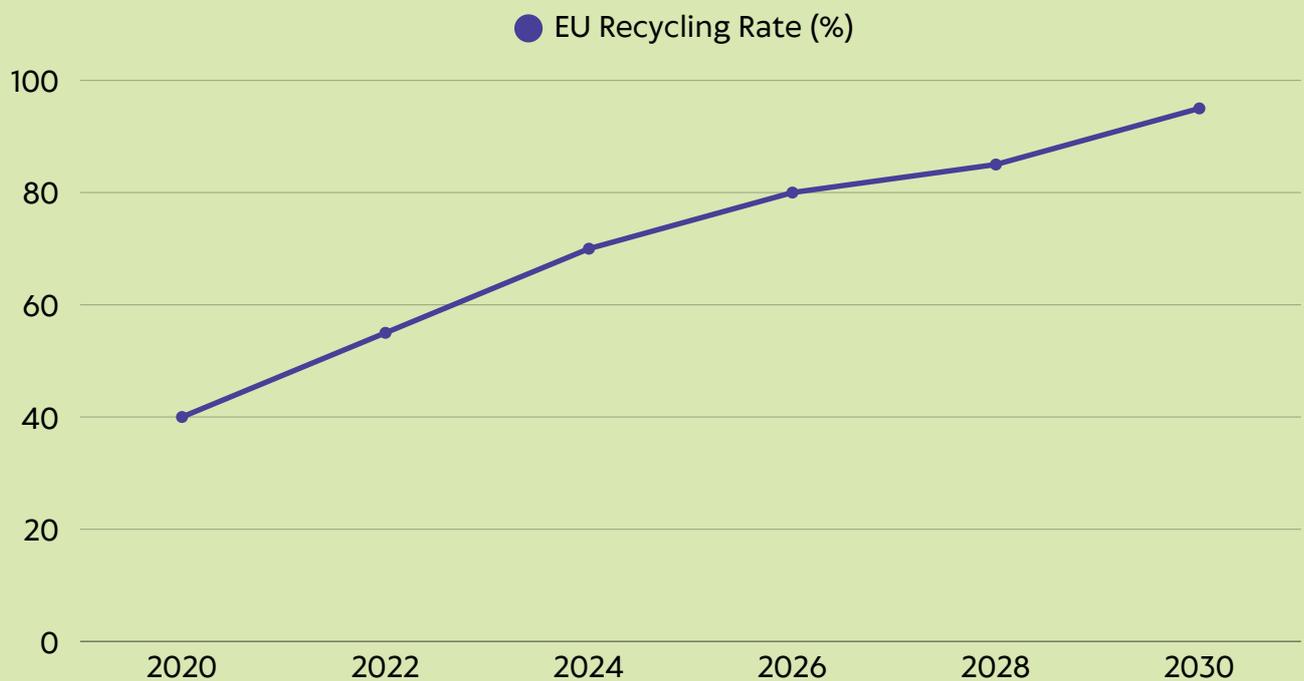


Level the playing field for businesses that already manage end-of-life responsibility

The solar industry is already contributing and moving forward. The graph below shows how much of a solar system can be recycled today and what the plan looks like. By 2030, more than 95% of the materials are expected to be recyclable. What's not to like? And by the way, this level of recyclability is not the same for other forms of renewable energy, which have lower recycling rates.

EU Recycling Rate

By 2030 is expected than more than 95% of a solar panel can be recycled.



The EU recycling rates shows the growing commitment and progress in solar panel recycling, A higher recycling rate means less environmental impact (related to the materials the panels are made of) and more sustainable material use.

Read more here: <https://www.intersolar.de/news/recycling-of-photovoltaic-modules>

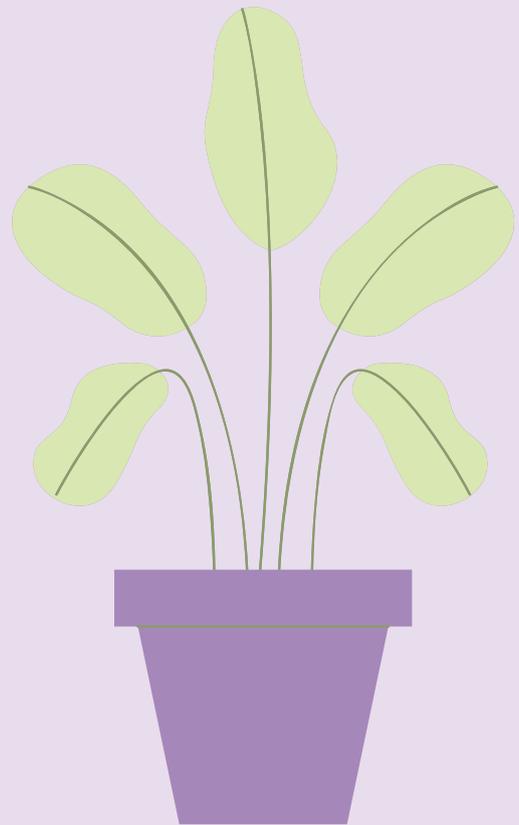
We might be too much in love of solar – but the numbers do not let think otherwise: solar is becoming the only single – and real – source of clean energy that does not need to fear for the end of life.

Flexibility and Timelines Ensure Smooth Transition

The Act is designed with flexibility, and that matters. Changes that arrive without time to prepare often fail. So, while I support the Act, I also insist on two things:

1. Clear **timelines** that give manufacturers inside and outside the EU time to adapt.
2. **Incentives** and **guidance** — not penalties — to help businesses shift to circular practices.

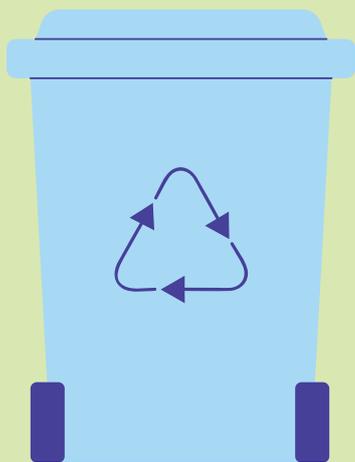
WEEE compliance should be a strategic advantage, not a bureaucratic burden.



Denmark's Strategic Advantage

In Denmark, we already have strong circular-economy policies. Combined with our leadership in clean energy, this puts us in a unique position to lead the implementation of these EU rules. We simply need to keep moving forward.

For years, Denmark has been the model others follow — for example in wind power. And through the WEEE fees, we are already showing the way for other countries. This Act simply turns into law what we have been working toward for a long time.



A Reflection

Even though we support this Act, we can't help reflecting on something: there are other categories that could be updated at the same time as Category 4 – and some of them may pollute even more than solar panels.

Today, Category 4 waste, which includes PV panels, also covers everyday items like vacuum cleaners, TVs, computer screens, and dishwashers – things found in almost every home.

Think about it this way: a solar system typically lasts 25 years or more. But how many of those household appliances will be replaced in the same period? Probably several times. In most homes, the total amount of replaced electronics over 25 years is far greater in weight and volume than one solar system.

So we have to ask ourselves: if we are now demanding transparency and responsibility for solar systems, shouldn't we expect the same level of transparency for all the electronics we use and replace far more often?

If we are already changing the category – why not update everything at once?

Our Conclusion (which doesn't have to be yours)

We strongly support the Circular Economy Act, which the European Commission plans to adopt in 2026 as part of the Clean Industrial Deal.

For those of us working in the solar sector, this Act creates a framework that turns WEEE compliance into a strategic advantage rather than a bureaucratic burden.
And we are already acting on it.

We have shared our reflections and conclusions through the Energy Board at Dansk Industri.



About Risskov Teknik & Solar

We look forward to partnering with you on your journey
to a greener, more resilient energy future

Risskov Teknik & Solar has over 13 years of experience and more than 22,905 kWp installed capacity in Denmark. We specialize in flexible, transparent solar solutions tailored to commercial needs, combining expert design, installation, service and AI-solutions ([Epicore](#)). Our commitment to sustainability and innovation positions us as a trusted partner in navigating new regulations and advancing Denmark's green transition.

Contact us, we love to talk about how we can benefit of rules, such as circular economy, and solar systems, to create a more sustainable world.



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