# Deep dive into Renewable Energy Supply Chain

How to ensure your supplier is best in class for ESG

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# Why is supply chain oversight important?

ESG is important across the value chain for many reasons



## Solar supply chains under scrutiny

Forced labour is in the spotlight

# Chinese Solar Companies Tied to Use of Forced Labor

A new report shows some of the world's biggest solar companies work with the Chinese government to absorb workers from Xinjiang, programs that are often seen as a red flag for forced labor.

#### US ports blocking shipments of solar components due to forced labor fears

US ports have been blocking shipments of solar components since the summer due to concerns about forced labor in China's Xinjiang region.

#### NOVEMBER 14, 2022 RYAN KENNEDY





#### How 'dark underbelly' and forced labour is helping to fuel Australia's love affair with cheap solar

By energy reporter Daniel Mercer Posted Yesterday at 7:07am



— Rear Window

#### Slave labour links to Fortescue solar plant



Joe Aston Columnist

#### Australian solar industry remarkably silent as global pressure mounts around allegations of forced labour in supply chain

The solar industry in Europe and the United States is continuing to ramp up the pressure on the use of polysilicon produced in Xinjiang, China – in response to allegations that forced labour is being used in its production. By contrast, the Australian industry's response has been markedly muted. Although it is true that most global solar industries are heavily reliant on Chinese manufacturing, Australia is overwhelmingly so.

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## A robust compliance program

#### Supply chain policies and governance documentation



Suppliers'

suppliers

Raw materials

- Code of Business Ethics and Conduct
- Supplier's Sustainability Guidelines
- Live training

### Policies for Employees

- & Contractors:
- Code of Business Ethics and Conduct
- Whistleblower Hotline



- Supplier's Sustainability Guidelines
  - Enhanced due diligence when applicable (such as certifications for any Chinaexposed suppliers regarding not being (i) in Xinjiang; and (ii) on sanctions list)
  - SEIA Protocol / other traceability standards

#### **Grievance Mechanism**

- Reporting for internal and external stakeholders
- Remediation process

#### Reporting

- Conflict Minerals (US)
- Modern Slavery (Aus)

#### Auditing

- Chain of Custody
- Social

## Mapping modern slavery – a risk-based approach

#### **Risks of modern slavery in a solar supply chain**



# **Traceability**

#### In accordance with emerging regulations and best practices, identifying the source of raw materials incorporated in selected products:

- 1. Tracing such raw materials every step from the source through the factories where it is processed until it is delivered; and
- Use of Manufacturer's Execution System (MES) tracing system as well as transportation documentation every step of the journey.

On the right is a sample of what tracing the MGSi / Polysilicon in a solar module looks like, which is a key area of scrutiny in the solar industry



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# Auditing

#### **Chain of Custody Audit**

A chain of custody audit for traceability goes through every step of the process to ensure inputs are tracked from the source of the raw materials to the final product received by the customer

Focus is on documentation such as purchase orders and transportation documents and systems to track lot numbers at factories such as usage of Manufacturer's Execution System (MES)

Social Audit These audits focus on working conditions at a factory, compliance with forced labor laws and other ESG factors in a holistic evaluation of the site audited

One leading standard is the SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit) methodology, the most widely used format for social audits in the world

It is challenging but we are seeing that these audits, both chain of custody and social, can be conducted in China at present with the right parameters and sensitivity to the local context



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# **Social Supply Chain Audit**

#### **Ethical and responsible sourcing**

Sedex



- Maxeon has engaged an audit firm to audit supply chain operations and working conditions. The audited results were uploaded on the Sedex platform.
- All registered members of Sedex can request for a copy of the audit report from Sedex via the platform.



### **Case study**

#### Malaysia: withholding passports

# Issue uncovered during in person code of conduct training.

Some jobs in Malaysia are described as the **three Ds**:

dirty, difficult and dangerous.

Malaysians don't want to do these jobs.

Agencies find workers to do jobs with the Three Ds and contract workers from countries such as **Bangladesh**, **Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal**, etc., where human rights are not as protected.

# >> Investigation

& action >>



#### **In-person visits and interviews:**

- **1.** Contract agencies
- 2. Dormitories
- 3. Workers

#### Actions:

- **1**. Certifications from agencies
- 2. Signs in dormitories in native languages
- 3. Remediation and termination

# A checklist for modern slavery practices

- $\checkmark$  Does the supplier share your values?
- ✓ Does the supplier have the right policies?
- ✓ Does the supplier have a risk-based approach?
- Where are the components sourced and manufactured? NOT where the product is assembled.
- Can your supplier certify non-Xinjiang provenance?
- ✓ Does the supplier conduct third-party audits?

# Any questions on modern slavery in the supply chain?



# **Circular economy practices**

How they apply to a solar supply chain



MATERIALS SOURCING

- Screen suppliers for carbon footprint and other environmental metrics
- Public disclosure of all panel materials (i.e. Declare label)
- Meet strictest standards set for harmful chemicals (such as lead-free)

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- Use products manufactured in facilities that demonstrate they use the best practices (LEED is one such body)
- Demonstrate high standards in material health, water stewardship and social fairness (Cradle to Cradle)



- Use highest efficiency product – this will maximize the electricity you produce in the lowest amount of space which is limited with a rooftop
- Install products correctly (maximize sun

   flat commercial rooftops are perfect)

- Use longest lasting product
- Use a product designed for upcycling, recycling when only necessary
- Have a robust process for screening recycling partners

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## **Energy Payback Time (EPT)**

The key metric to make energy positive buildings

$$EPBT = \frac{E_{mat} + E_{manuf} + E_{trans} + E_{inst} + E_{EOL}}{E_{agen} - E_{aoper}}$$

- EBPT is the period required for a renewable energy system to generate the same amount of energy that was used to produce the system
- A comprehensive life-cycle analysis of emissions in the (i) materials, (ii) manufacture, (iii) transmission, (iv) installation and (v) anticipated end-of-life needs to be performed and then divided by (a) the electricity generated minus (b) the energy used in operations as below
- A calculation can be performed with the buildings inputs to create EPBT for the building

In Australia, as an example, with the right conditions, EPBT for solar panels can be as little as 3 months.

# This is **150X** energy positivity!

(above is for SunPower Maxeon - 3x normal panels)

# A checklist for circular economy practices

- $\checkmark$  Materials used
- Manufacturing procedures
- ✓ Efficiency / degradation of panels
- ✓ Warranty period (product not performance)
- ✓ Does the supplier disclose robustly on energy use in manufacture? (calculate energy payback time of a building)

# Any questions on circular economy in the solar supply chain?



# Our sustainability journey thus far



#### Establish New ESG Team

Dedicated team with global and local diversified ESG experiences

#### Joined United Nations Global Compact

Issued CEO Letter of Commitment on our support of the SDGs



**United Nations** Global Compact



#### Inaugural Sustainability Report

Benchmarking exercise and materiality assessment to shape our ESG focus areas and sustainability report

#### **Conflict Minerals Reporting**

Completed first Conflict Minerals disclosure report post-spinoff

#### Green Finance Reporting (and Sustainability-Linked Loans)

**Target Setting for Material Topics** Develop long-term targets

around material topics by the end of 2021



Published 2<sup>nd</sup> Sustainability Report

Energy Payback Time Assessment

**Cradle to Cradle – Silver** 

#### **Modern Slavery Statement** Filed its inaugural Modern Slavery

Statement in 2022 which aligns with Australia, California and United Kingdom reporting standards

Launch of CSR Program – Maxeon Gives

Green Bond Framework & Final Green Finance Reporting (with external assurance)



Climate Risks (TCFD) and CDP disclosures



CERTIFIED

cradle to cradle

SILVER

Powering a Circular Economy Policy\*

CDP

Named by Corporate Knights a Top 100 Most Sustainable Company



\*Policy for recycling and beyond

# Our sustainability journey to come



#### Climate Risks Phase 2 -Climate Scenario Analysis

Further develop the climate scenario analysis with quantitative outcomes



#### **More LEED Certifications**

Achieve LEED certification for Singapore office and The Philippines site





# 2025

#### Climate Risks Phase 3 – Quantitative Impacts

Develops the quantitative impacts for additional prioritized risks and quantify response measures

#### Review mid-term ESG Targets

Review 2025 ESG targets

- Environmental: Reduction of emission intensity
- **Social**: Improve safety, diversity and community investment targets
- **Governance**: Improve product quality and innovation; maintain business integrity



#### Review long-term ESG targets

Review 2030 ESG targets

- Environmental: Further reduction of emission intensity
- **Social:** Attain better than industry safety standards, improve diversity and community investment targets
- **Governance:** Achieve better than industry product quality and innovation; maintain business integrity

## Finalise 2050 Net Zero Decarbonization Plans

Implement action plans to meet net zero goals

# Key learnings

| Sustainability is a<br>journey                         | Sustainability is a long-term project. Apply principles of 'Kaizen' and continuously improve there is no such thing as perfection!                       |
|--|--|
| Find the right partner                                 | More important than words or reports in a partner are values and trust!  |
| Don't accept easy<br>answers                           | If anybody says this is easy they are probably lying! Expect<br>difficult and inconvenient conversations it means you are<br>asking the right questions! |
| The good news:<br>progress is being<br>made every day! | As painful as it can be, know that progress is happening all the time!   |



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