

# Recycling and end of life of solar power plants

Voltalia reduces the environmental impact of its activities



Voltalia's operating sites are recent and therefore far from the dismantling phase. However, the company is committed to anticipating the end of life of its plants in the medium and long term.

As a Mission-driven company, Voltalia does its best to ensure that old or damaged solar panels are sent to recycling facilities.

To this end, Voltalia works with the eco-organizations in place in the countries where the company operates, such as Soren in France, ERP (Entidade Gestora de Resíduos) and Ambigroup in Portugal, Fotokiklosi and Anakiklosi Syskeyon in Greece, Recyclia, ECOASIMELEC and Ecopilas in Spain, Re Open in Italy and Recycle Solar Technologies in the UK.

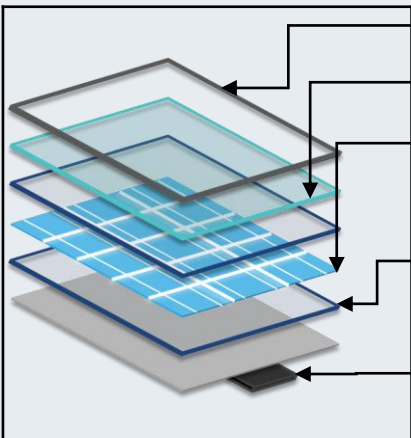
These companies are in charge of collecting and processing end-of-life photovoltaic panels. These panels are temporarily stored on site in countries where the process has not yet been developed.

## Recycling channels provided in six countries



## How does a solar panel get recycled?

The lifespan of a photovoltaic panel is about 30 years and more than 80% of the mass of the panels (glass, plastics and aluminum) are recyclable and already recycled in the existing industrial channels.



- Aluminium frame :**  
Can be recycled indefinitely.
- tempered glass :**  
Can be recycled indefinitely.
- Photovoltaic cells (silicium) :**  
Separated from the silver, it is recyclable 4 times. The conductors are made of silver, aluminum and copper and are reusable.
- Membrane, transparent EVA (plastic - composite) :**  
Transformed into solid recovered fuel (SRF) in order to be recovered energetically.
- Junction box and wiring (Copper and tinned copper) :**  
melted and reused.

Source SOREN

