

50

STATES OF SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING

2025 Snapshot



AUTHOR

Justin Lindemann

CONTRIBUTORS

The author would like to extend his appreciation for research and editorial contributions made by Emily Apadula, Cleo Carter, Rebekah de la Mora, Caitlin Flanagan, Brian Lips, and David Sarkisian of the NC Clean Energy Technology Center.

ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The NC Clean Energy Technology Center is a UNC System-chartered Public Service Center administered by the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University. Its mission is to advance a sustainable energy economy by educating, demonstrating and providing support for clean energy technologies, practices, and policies. The Center provides service to the businesses and citizens of North Carolina and beyond relating to the development and adoption of clean energy technologies. Through its programs and activities, the Center envisions and seeks to promote the development and use of clean energy in ways that stimulate a sustainable economy while reducing dependence on foreign sources of energy and mitigating the environmental impacts of fossil fuel use.

CONTACT

Email: dsire-admin@ncsu.edu

PREFERRED CITATION

North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, *The 50 States of Solar Decommissioning: 2025 Snapshot*, January 2026.

COVER DESIGN CREDIT

Cover design by Amira Ferjani and Justin Lindemann

DISCLAIMER

While the authors strive to provide the best information possible, neither the NC Clean Energy Technology Center nor NC State University make any representations or warranties, either express or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of the information. The NC Clean Energy Technology Center and NC State University disclaim all liability of any kind arising out of use or misuse of the information contained or referenced within this report. Readers are invited to contact the authors with proposed corrections or additions.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Full editions of and annual subscriptions to the 50 States of Solar may be purchased [here](#).

The 50 States of Solar is a quarterly publication. Previous executive summaries and older full editions of The 50 States of Solar are available here. The NC Clean Energy Technology Center also publishes the 50 States of Power Decarbonization on a quarterly basis. Executive summaries of these reports may be found here. Please contact us for older issues of the 50 States of Solar.

- TABLE OF CONTENTS -

INTRODUCTION	4
TYPES OF STATEWIDE POLICY MODELS	6
2025 SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING LEGISLATIVE UPDATES	7
STATEWIDE SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY REVIEW	14
ARKANSAS	15
CALIFORNIA	16
CONNECTICUT	17
GEORGIA	18
HAWAII	19
ILLINOIS	20
INDIANA	21
KENTUCKY	22
LOUISIANA	23
MAINE	24
MARYLAND	26
MASSACHUSETTS	27
MICHIGAN	28
MINNESOTA	29
MONTANA	30
NEBRASKA	31
NEVADA	32
NEW HAMPSHIRE	33
NEW JERSEY	34
NEW YORK	35
NORTH CAROLINA	36
NORTH DAKOTA	38
OHIO	39
OKLAHOMA	40
OREGON	41
RHODE ISLAND	42
SOUTH CAROLINA	43
SOUTH DAKOTA	45
TENNESSEE	46
TEXAS	47
VERMONT	49
VIRGINIA	50
WASHINGTON	51
WEST VIRGINIA	52
WYOMING	54
EMERGING TRENDS & BEST PRACTICES IN DECOMMISSIONING	55
CONCLUSION	57

Introduction

Solar decommissioning is the process of deconstructing and removing solar energy facilities, ancillary equipment, and related structures (i.e. solar panels, racking systems, posts, electric wiring, fencing, inverters and transformers, access roads, storage systems, etc.) from a site and restoring it to its previous state so that the land may be repurposed for future use. Decommissioning occurs after a solar project has reached the end of its lifespan – on average after 25 to 30 years of operating – and may require the project owner/developer to provide financial assurance for the estimated removal and site restoration costs. Financial assurance aims to provide the landowner of a solar facility site, among other stakeholders, with proof that a decommissioning plan can fully be carried out in line with projected costs.

Solar Expansion and Decommissioning Standards

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the amount of potential solar panel waste could total to around 3,000 football fields by 2030.¹ Although the relative size of the solar waste that will accumulate by 2030, 2040, and 2050 is still predicted to be smaller than other waste streams,² the size and number of solar projects planned for the coming years still signal the importance of solar project owners decommissioning solar facilities properly and to assure impacted landowners that site conditions will return to what they once were. As the pace of installations increases, more projects will reach the end of their useful lives at similar times, creating the necessity - and opportunity - for states and localities to have policies to handle decommissioning consistently and comprehensively. Data from the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and Wood Mackenzie showed that over 30 GW of new solar capacity had been installed by the start of the final quarter of 2025, as development activity continued to ramp up across the industry until the end of the year.³ An estimated 50 GW of solar capacity was added in 2024,⁴ an approximate 25% increase over 2023's 32.4 GW of newly installed solar generation.⁵

¹ Hurdle, J. (2023). As Millions of Solar Panels Age Out, Recyclers Hope to Cash In. Retrieved from <https://e360.yale.edu/features/solar-energy-panels-recycling#:~:text=The%20area%20covered%20by%20solar,regulatory%20analyst%20at%20the%20lab>

² Mirletz, H., Hieslmair, H., Ovatt, S., Curtis, T. L., & Barnes, T. M. (2023). Retrieved from <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41567-023-02230-0>

³ SEIA & Wood Mackenzie. (2025). Solar Market Insight Report Q4 2025. Retrieved from <https://seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-q4-2025/>

⁴ SEIA & Wood Mackenzie. (2025). Solar Market Insight Report 2024 Year in Review. Retrieved from <https://seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2024-year-in-review/>

⁵ Solar Energy Industries Association. (2024). Solar Installations Skyrocket in 2023 in Record-Setting First Full Year of Inflation Reduction Act. Retrieved from <https://seia.org/news/solar-installations-skyrocket-2023-record-setting-first-full-year-inflation-reduction-act/#:~:text=For%20the%20first%20time%20in,a%2051%25%20increase%20from%202022>

Currently, there is no consistent national standard for solar decommissioning, as relatively few projects have reached the end-of-life stage; however, individual states have adopted standards tailored to their specific needs. Nevertheless, SEIA is in the process of developing a solar and energy storage equipment decommissioning standard, which will cover the removal, handling, logistics, contracts, land rehabilitation and other critical aspects of system removal, in addition to elements related to environmental and social responsibility.^{6,7}

Addressing Community Concerns Through Engagement

Additionally, as more solar developers start the process of developing large-scale solar projects, communities that will be impacted by development and operations may raise concerns about the end-of-life stage. A 2024 study⁸ from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on local stakeholder perspectives details this concern, and elaborates on the importance of improving community engagement, including during the decommissioning process.

Several states are using programmatic approaches to improve communication and community participation through the U.S. Department of Energy's Reliable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) program, which strengthens state and local capacity for planning, siting, and permitting large-scale renewable energy projects. For example, R-STEP initiatives such as the Carolinas Development Assistance and Siting Hub (Carolinas DASH) offer communities and local governments in North and South Carolina education, technical support, and engagement resources for renewable energy siting and permitting.^{9,10}

Report Overview

This report provides readers and stakeholders at different stages of the solar project development cycle, with information on the types of policy models states are employing to guide solar decommissioning; updates on legislation that has passed or is still being considered related to solar decommissioning as of the end of 2025; gives a brief analysis of current state-by-state policy—specifically those offering state-based rules and statutes; and ends with a summary of notable trends and potential best practices.

⁶ Solar Energy Industries Association. (2023). SEIA Gets Greenlight to Develop 11 New Standards Governing Solar Installation, Training, Recycling, Consumer Protection and Supply Chain Traceability. Retrieved from <https://seia.org/news/seia-gets-greenlight-develop-11-new-standards-governing-solar-installation-training-recycling/>

⁷ Solar Energy Industries Association. (2024). Standards Development. Retrieved from <https://seia.org/initiatives/standards-development/>

⁸ Bessette, D. L., Hoen, B., Rand, J., Hoesch, K., White, J., Mills, S. B., & Nilson, R. (2024). Good fences make good neighbors: Stakeholder perspectives on the local benefits and burdens of large-scale solar energy development in the United States. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 108, 103375. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103375>

⁹ U.S. Department of Energy. (2025). Reliable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP). Retrieved from <https://www.energy.gov/eere/reliable-energy-siting-through-technical-engagement-and-planning-r-stepm>

¹⁰ Carolinas Development Assistance and Siting Hub. (2025). Supporting States and Communities on Renewable Energy Siting and Permitting. Retrieved from carolinas-dash.org

Types of Statewide Policy Models

From state to state, various decommissioning policy models give certain jurisdictional powers to local governments and state agencies. The following model types are generally seen when examining the national solar decommissioning policy landscape:

- **Local Option Only:** States with no statewide policy, giving local governments the sole jurisdiction to implement solar decommissioning rules.
- **Local Option w/State Model Template:** States in which there is no statewide policy, giving local governments the sole jurisdiction to implement solar decommissioning rules, but are provided with a model template for requirements by the state government that localities can use.
- **Statewide/Local Hybrid:** States with a statewide decommissioning statute or rule that may give local governments the option to impose stricter requirements.
- **Statewide:** States in which statewide decommissioning statutes or rules are required.
- **Statewide Optional:** States with decommissioning statutes or rules that can be administered in lieu of local regulations.

2025 SOLAR DECOMMISSIONING LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As of the end of 2025, over two dozen state legislatures have or are still considering bills related to administering decommissioning rules for solar and battery energy storage system facilities, mandating financial assurance, and recycling of facility materials. Some proposed legislation has been successfully enacted, while other bills have either failed to pass or been carried over into 2026, including the following:

- **Arkansas:** In April 2025, lawmakers enacted H.B. 1525, requiring renewable energy developers to enter into agricultural impact remediation agreements with agricultural landowners. These agreements must outline construction and deconstruction standards to ensure the land is restored when the renewable facility is removed, and deconstruction plans must include proof of sufficient financial mechanisms and assurances.¹¹
- **Connecticut:** Connecticut lawmakers considered several measures related to solar panel end-of-life management. In January, H.B. 5136 was introduced to establish an extended producer responsibility program for solar panels, but it did not pass committee. Also in January, H.B. 5401 was introduced to require owners of solar systems under Connecticut Siting Council jurisdiction to submit and finance decommissioning and disposal plans; it likewise failed in committee. In February, S.B. 1281 was introduced to direct state agencies to study potential extended producer responsibility programs for discarded panels, including volume projections, current practices, regional collaboration, cost comparisons, and required infrastructure, with a report due by February 1, 2026; it did not pass before adjournment. In July, lawmakers enacted H.B. 5916, expanding existing decommissioning bond requirements to also cover solar facilities of 2 MW or more approved by declaratory ruling.¹²
- **Florida:** In February 2025, the state legislature introduced H.B. 1595 and S.B. 1304 to allow counties to require the decommissioning of solar facilities over 2 MW on agricultural land and to establish financial assurance requirements. The bills defined end-of-life and abandonment criteria, permitted counties to assume decommissioning if owners failed to act, and exempted projects with completed applications filed before July 1, 2025. Both bills failed to pass before the end of the legislative session.¹³
- **Georgia:** In February 2025, the state legislature introduced H.B. 249 and H.B. 320. H.B. 249 required solar developers to provide financial assurance to landowners before beginning commercial operations, and authorized the state environmental division to issue cease and desist orders and daily fines for noncompliance. H.B. 320 established disposal and recycling requirements for end-of-life solar panels, prohibiting landfill disposal and requiring delivery to approved recycling facilities.¹⁴
- **Illinois:** Between January and July 2025, the Illinois legislature introduced several bills addressing solar facility decommissioning, land reclamation, and drainage requirements. H.B. 1163 required solar developers to submit land reclamation and recycling plans to the

¹¹ AR [H.B. 1525](#)

¹² CT [H.B. 5135](#), [H.B. 5401](#), [H.B. 5916](#), and [S.B. 1281](#)

¹³ FL [H.B. 1595](#) and [S.B. 1304](#)

¹⁴ GA [H.B. 249](#) and [H.B. 320](#)

Department of Agriculture. H.B. 3563 authorized counties to establish construction and decommissioning standards, mandated drainage and deconstruction plans by qualified professionals, and required financial assurance for public safety or abandonment-related repairs. H.B. 1201, H.B. 4078, S.B. 38, and S.B. 1276 each sought to repeal existing provisions requiring farmland drainage plans.¹⁵

- **Iowa:** In February 2025, the Iowa legislature introduced H.F. 404 and S.F. 376 to establish decommissioning requirements for solar energy projects. H.F. 404, part of a broader community solar initiative, required removal of non-utility-owned equipment to three feet below grade, restoration of land to pre-construction condition, and financial assurance for decommissioning costs minus salvage value. S.F. 376 allowed local authorities to mandate decommissioning plans for renewable projects, including equipment removal to four feet below grade and phased financial assurance—starting at five percent by the operation date and reaching 100 percent by year fifteen. Neither bill advanced before the state’s crossover deadline.¹⁶
- **Kansas:** In February 2025, the Kansas legislature introduced S.B. 233 to establish decommissioning requirements for commercial solar energy facilities. The bill required developers to enter into a decommissioning agreement with the county, including a plan prepared by a third-party engineer and financial assurance updated every five years. The developer would be responsible for reimbursing county costs related to the plan. The bill did not advance before the state’s crossover deadline.¹⁷
- **Louisiana:** In April 2025, lawmakers introduced H.B. 615, directing state agencies to set rules for financial security, permitting, siting, and decommissioning of renewable energy facilities. Facilities of 10 acres or more would need a decommissioning plan and proof of financial security, updated every three years, while utility-owned facilities could be exempt. The bill also required battery facilities to submit decommissioning plans and financial security but did not pass in May 2025. In June 2025, lawmakers enacted H.B. 459, requiring batteries paired with renewable facilities to provide proof of financial security and a decommissioning plan to receive a permit.¹⁸
- **Massachusetts:** In February 2025, the Massachusetts legislature introduced H.B. 904 and S.B. 550, which would require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop—and update every 10 years—a statewide plan for managing end-of-life solar panels and energy storage batteries. The plan, due by July 1, 2026, must address hazardous waste risks, recycling methods, projected waste volumes, collection infrastructure, financial assurance for projects over 1 MW, and stewardship programs for non-utility-scale systems. In August 2025, the legislature introduced S.B. 2569 to replace S.B. 550, a similar bill that sets the initial plan submission deadline for no later than December 1, 2026.¹⁹
- **Maryland:** In May 2025, Governor Wes Moore signed H.B. 1036 and S.B. 931 to create a certificate of public convenience and necessity for certain community solar projects with a capacity between 2 MW and 5 MW. The legislation directs the Power Plant Research Program to develop standard siting, design, and licensing requirements—including decommissioning

¹⁵ [IL H.B. 1163](#), [H.B. 1201](#), [H.B. 3563](#), [H.B. 4078](#), [S.B. 38](#), [S.B. 1276](#)

¹⁶ [IA H.F. 404](#) and [S.F. 376](#)

¹⁷ [KS S.B. 233](#)

¹⁸ LA [H.B. 459](#) and [H.B. 615](#)

¹⁹ [MA H.B. 904](#), [S.B. 550](#), [S.B. 2569](#)

provisions—by July 1, 2026. It also requires eligible solar projects and their owners to enter into a decommissioning agreement and post a surety bond of up to 125% of estimated decommissioning costs (minus salvage value), with the bond amount reviewed and updated every five years.²⁰

- **Maine:** In January 2025, the Maine legislature introduced L.D. 92 to amend decommissioning laws by requiring that waste components from solar energy developments be recycled or disposed of within 90 days of removal. The bill failed to advance before the end of the 2025 legislative session.²¹
- **Montana:** In January 2025, the state legislature introduced S.B. 160 to establish decommissioning requirements for wind and solar facilities. The bill requires facility owners to begin decommissioning within 12 months of abandonment or the end of a facility’s useful life and to complete the process within 24 months. Decommissioning must include the removal and disposal of all equipment—including panels, towers, turbines, transformers, fencing, inverters, substations, underground cabling, cement, foundations, and buildings—and restoration of the site to its approximate original topography. The bill also requires owners to submit a decommissioning plan prior to construction and sets the final bond amount at 125% of the initial estimate. The bill failed to pass before the end of the 2025 legislative session. Governor Greg Gianforte signed H.B. 31 in May 2025, clarifying certain bonding requirements for solar generation facilities based on the date of operation.
- **North Carolina:** In February 2025, the state’s Department of Environmental Quality adopted rules clarifying the registration process and fee requirements for solar projects initiated that year. The rules specify allowable financial assurance mechanisms, required language for these mechanisms, and decommissioning cost estimate requirements. They also set registration fees based on project capacity, with potential fee updates every five years starting July 1, 2029. These rules became effective on April 1, 2025. In April 2025, the state legislature introduced H.B. 79 to amend existing solar decommissioning laws. The bill initially proposed delaying the effective date for decommissioning requirements for utility-scale solar projects from November 1, 2025, to December 1, 2026, and expanding the requirements to systems constructed before or after that date. However, the bill was later amended to remove these provisions and failed to advance before the state’s crossover deadline. Another bill was introduced focusing on utility-scale battery energy storage system decommissioning, specifically for projects with a capacity of at least 1 MW, largely reflecting the principles laid out in existing state solar decommissioning laws, alongside new emergency management provisions; but the bill failed to progress.²²
- **Nevada:** In May 2025, Governor Joe Lombardo signed A.B. 493, requiring the owner of a distributed generation system—either leased to a customer or used to sell power to a customer—to submit a written end-of-life disposal plan to the Division of Environmental Protection. These plans must detail how solar photovoltaic panels will be reused, refurbished, or recycled instead of disposed, identify a responsible party, and include a recycling recovery rate of at least 90% by weight. The bill also amends existing law stipulating that assets that are classified as surplus by an electric utility or reclassified as such by the Public Utilities Commission must file a surplus asset retirement plan with the Commission within 120 days

²⁰ [MD H.B. 1036](#) and [S.B. 931](#)

²¹ [ME L.D. 92](#)

²² [Approved NC DEQ rules](#), [H.B. 729](#), and [S.B. 728](#)

after an asset has been certified or reclassified as surplus. Per the bill, for utility-scale solar projects over 70 MW, the retirement plan must describe how decommissioning will be conducted, material disposition, and how the land will be restored to a substantially similar condition as prior to construction.²³

- **New Jersey:** In June 2025, the New Jersey legislature introduced A.B. 5742 and S.B. 4607 to establish a roadside solar energy pilot program allowing construction of solar facilities with capacities up to 10 MW. The bills set criteria for application review by the Board of Public Utilities and Department of Transportation, including decommissioning proposals. After 36 to 60 months, depending on extensions, the pilot must be converted to a permanent program with rules and regulations addressing installation and decommissioning standards, including measures to reduce traffic impacts and potential performance bond requirements. However, the bills did not progress further before the end of the state’s legislative session.

Separately, in June 2024, the legislature introduced S.B. 3399 directing the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt regulations for removing and recycling solar and PV energy-generation facilities. The Senate passed the bill later that month. A companion measure, A.B. 6005, introduced in November 2025, was later replaced by S.B. 3399, which the Assembly passed in early December 2025. The final bill permits—but does not require—the Department to adopt such regulations, including potential requirements for securely storing toxic panel components until a safe, approved recycling method is available.²⁴

- **New York:** In early 2025, New York introduced a series of bills addressing renewable energy, agrivoltaics, local siting authority, and solar panel recycling. In March and April, A.B. 7584 and S.B. 6286 were introduced to create the Agrivoltaics Viability Pilot Program, a grant-funded initiative to identify best practices for dual-use solar systems that protect soil health while maintaining agricultural productivity; the Senate passed S.B. 6286 in June. The Senate also passed S.B. 7899 in May and June 2025, prioritizing certain sites for renewable energy development and defining agrivoltaics as the concurrent production of solar energy and marketable agricultural products from installation through decommissioning, with provisions to safeguard agricultural land.

Local control over renewable energy siting was addressed through S.B. 3761 and A.B. 5908 in January and February 2025, granting municipalities final authority to approve or impose conditions on major renewable energy projects and requiring them to retain independent legal counsel to review project agreements and applications. Solar panel waste legislation was introduced through S.B. 1502 and A.B. 7537 in January and April 2025, mandating manufacturer-operated collection, transportation, and recycling programs by July 1, 2027, at no cost to customers, with annual reporting beginning in 2028; only panels from participating manufacturers may be sold in the state.

In April and May, S.B. 8012 and A.B. 8332 were introduced to amend real property tax law to allow discounted cash-flow valuation methods for solar and wind projects and to clarify that decommissioning-related expenses are intangible assets excluded from revenue calculations. S.B. 8012 passed the Senate and substituted A.B. 8332, before passing the Assembly in

²³ [NV A.B. 493](#)

²⁴ [NJ A.B. 5742](#), [A.B. 6005](#), [S.B. 3399](#), and [S.B. 4607](#)

June 2025, and was signed by the Governor in early December 2025. In May, S.B. 8119 was introduced to authorize municipalities to establish standards for distributed energy resource facilities, limit decommissioning payments to net costs after salvage value, and require periodic updates to decommissioning plans. After which, a companion bill, A.B. 9087, was filed in September, with similar language.

Additionally, in January 2025, S.B. 4066 was introduced to mandate a comprehensive study on solar photovoltaic panel recycling and reuse and to establish the Empire State Solar PV Panel Recycling Program Credit.²⁵

- **Ohio:** In May and November 2025, the Ohio House of Representatives introduced and passed a bill, H.B. 303, creating the Community Energy Program and Pilot Program. The bill requires community energy organizations to begin decommissioning a facility within 18 months after it stops generating power. Decommissioning must include removing, reusing, or recycling solar panels and other equipment; removing non-utility-owned equipment, graveled areas, and access roads; and restoring the site by replacing topsoil and reseeding. No more than 20% of the facility's total mass may be landfilled. The bill also requires organizations to maintain a bond for the life of the facility to cover decommissioning costs, with the amount set by a third-party engineer, updated every five years, and payable to the county commissioners where the facility is located.²⁶
- **Oklahoma:** In March 2025, the House passed H.B. 2155, establishing the Renewable Energy Facility Act, which requires developers to provide attestations regarding notification and submission of decommissioning plans and mandates that the Corporation Commission set rules for financial security and facility operations. The Senate passed the bill in May 2025, striking the enacting clause, and the House did not concur, sending it to conference committee for the 2026 session. In May 2025, lawmakers enacted H.B. 1373, establishing the Commercial Solar Facility Decommissioning Act, which makes developers responsible for removing their facilities and meeting technical decommissioning standards, and requires evidence of financial assurance—such as a parent company guarantee, letter of credit, or bond—equal to at least the estimated cost of decommissioning and restoration.²⁷
- **Pennsylvania:** In February and April 2025, the state legislature introduced S.B. 349 and H.B. 1080, respectively, to establish decommissioning requirements for solar facilities on leased land. Owners must begin decommissioning within 18 months of ceased electricity production unless actively resuming operations, submit a decommissioning plan, provide financial assurance updated every five years, and notify surface property owners. Financial assurance increases from 10% at five years to 100% (minus salvage value) at 25 years and is payable to the property owner if decommissioning is not completed. The Department of Environmental Protection must develop provisional and final standard forms for plans and financial assurance. The plan must include removal of equipment to three feet below grade, site restoration, reseeding, and attestations regarding forced labor compliance. The bills preempt local ordinances and exempt facilities under 2 MW, customer generators, and solar on normal agricultural operations. S.B. 349 passed the Senate in early May 2025.²⁸

²⁵ [NY A.B. 5908](#), [A.B. 7537](#), [A.B. 7584](#), [A.B. 8332](#), [A.B. 9087](#), [S.B. 1502](#), [S.B. 3671](#), [S.B. 4066](#), [S.B. 6286](#), [S.B. 7899](#), [S.B. 8012](#), and [S.B. 8119](#)

²⁶ [OH H.B. 303](#)

²⁷ [OK H.B. 1373](#) and [H.B. 2155](#)

²⁸ [PA H.B. 1080](#) and [S.B. 349](#)

- **Rhode Island:** In January 2025, lawmakers introduced S.B. 89, directing the Climate Change Coordinating Council to study environmental impacts of carbon-free energy technologies on developing countries and requiring developers to commit resources for solar panel decommissioning and recycling. The bill did not pass by the end of the legislative session.²⁹
- **South Dakota:** In March 2025, Governor Larry Rhoden signed H.B. 1008 to define hybrid facilities as new or expanded facilities (25 MW or more) combining multiple types of generation or storage with a single interconnection point. The bill also requires hybrid facilities to provide decommissioning financial assurance under the authority of the Public Utilities Commission.³⁰
- **Tennessee:** In January 2025, the Tennessee legislature introduced H.B. 149 and S.B. 132 to require utility-scale solar arrays that cease electricity generation for 180 consecutive days to be decommissioned or removed, unless shutdown is required by state or federal law. The bills allow extensions in 180-day increments.³¹
- **Texas:** In 2025, lawmakers considered several bills on solar and battery storage facility decommissioning and financial assurance. H.B. 553, introduced in January, would have established renewable energy facility permit rules and a cleanup fund, but it did not pass. In May and June, lawmakers enacted H.B. 3228 and H.B. 3229, requiring developers to collect, recycle, or properly dispose of solar facility components and requiring recycling facility owners to submit annual reports with inventories of unrecycled solar or battery storage components, estimated recycling timelines, and cost estimates. Owners must provide financial assurance—through a parent company guaranty, letter of credit, or bond—to cover recycling costs, and facilities cannot accept components for compensation unless compliant, with noncompliance subject to a \$500/day fee. The Commission on Environmental Quality must maintain an online list of compliant recycling facilities. H.B. 3809, also enacted in May, establishes battery storage facility agreement requirements, including for co-located systems, specifying technical removal standards, recycling and disposal obligations, and financial assurance updated every five years or by system termination/the 15th year of operations.³²
- **Utah:** In 2025, the Utah legislature introduced H.B. 241 to require owners of solar power plants permitted after May 7, 2025, to provide financial assurance equal to decommissioning and reclamation costs, minus salvage value. The bill also required owners to create and update a decommissioning and reclamation plan every five years, including site restoration standards and removal of materials to a depth of four feet. The bill did not advance before the end of the 2025 legislative session.³³
- **Virginia:** In January 2025, the Virginia legislature introduced H.B. 2438 and S.B. 1114 to make local solar zoning regulations mandatory, specifying setback distances, system heights, fencing, visual impacts, and other development standards. The bills also required written decommissioning agreements between localities and developers, including financial assurance provisions. Both bills failed to advance before the end of the legislative session.³⁴

²⁹ RI [S.B. 89](#)

³⁰ SD [H.B. 1008](#)

³¹ TN [H.B. 149](#) and [S.B. 132](#)

³² TX [H.B. 553](#), [H.B. 3228](#), [H.B. 3229](#), [H.B. 3278](#), [H.B. 3422](#), [H.B. 3809](#), [S.B. 1478](#), [S.B. 1824](#), [S.B. 2657](#), and [S.B. 2659](#)

³³ UT [H.B. 241](#)

³⁴ VA [H.B. 2438](#) and [S.B. 1114](#)

- **Wisconsin:** In April 2025, the Wisconsin legislature introduced A.B. 174 requiring developers of large solar and battery storage systems to submit decommissioning and site restoration plans. Plans must include removal of equipment to three feet below grade within 18 months of operations ending, land restoration, and financial assurance based on a third-party engineer's estimate, to be posted by year 15. The bill also requires drainage plans addressing repair or replacement of subsurface drainage affected by construction or decommissioning. An additional pair of bills, A.B. 493 and S.B. 559, were introduced in October 2025, authorizing the creation of community solar programs that require certain facility owners to demonstrate financial assurance for decommissioning solar projects.³⁵
- **West Virginia:** In January 2025, the West Virginia legislature introduced S.B. 34 to establish a pilot community solar program and direct the Public Service Commission to develop regulations promoting best practices for construction and decommissioning. The bill did not advance before the end of the legislative session.³⁶

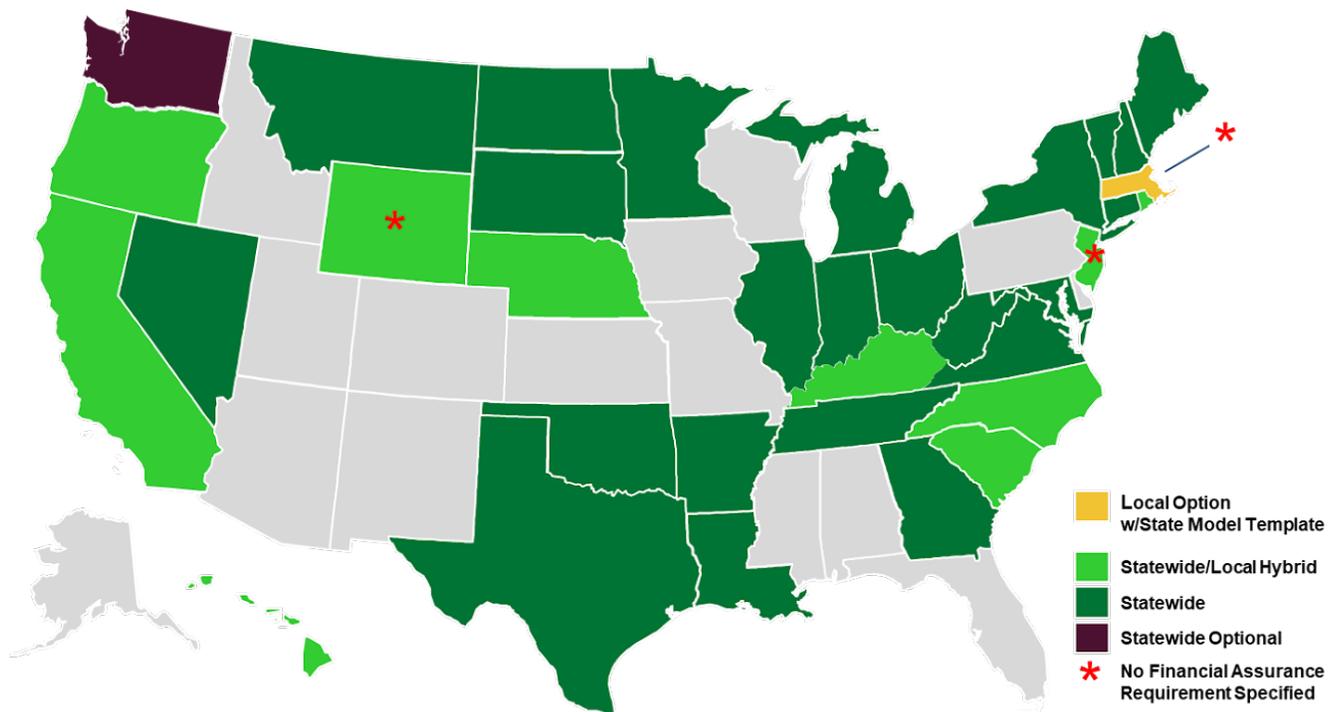
³⁵ [WI A.B. 174](#), [A.B. 493](#), and [S.B. 559](#)

³⁶ [WV S.B. 34](#)

Statewide Solar Decommissioning Policy Review

The current state decommissioning policies are listed below, with states ranked alphabetically. As of 2025, **23 states** have a statewide policy, **10 states** have a statewide/local hybrid policy, **1 state** has a statewide optional policy, and **1 state** provides an official model template that local governments may adopt. Each entry includes information on the corresponding state's total installed solar capacity (in MW) based on the Solar Energy Industry Association's Q3 2025 data and the corresponding state capacity ranking:³⁷

Figure 1. Map of Solar Decommissioning Policies in the United States



³⁷ All installed solar capacity numbers and rankings for each state are taken from the following map: <https://www.seia.org/states-map>

ARKANSAS

Statewide
Policy Model

#18
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
+2 Compared to Q4 2024

3,503 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Arkansas Code 18-11-901 et seq.³⁸

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Before constructing a commercial solar project on agricultural land – defined as property that produces or would normally produce at least \$1,000 in agricultural products annually – the project owner must enter into an agricultural impact remediation agreement with the landowner. This agreement must outline standards for both construction and deconstruction to ensure the land is properly restored after the project's removal. The agreement must be finalized and submitted to the Department of Agriculture at least 45 days prior to the construction notice to proceed, and is binding on any future owners of either the facility or the land. The agreement terms may be modified by mutual agreement, and do not apply when the landowner is also the project owner. These requirements do not apply to agreements entered into force before April 21, 2025.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The agricultural impact remediation agreement's deconstruction plan must be supported by adequate financial assurances.



³⁸ [Arkansas Code 18-11-901 et seq.](#)

California

**Statewide / Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#1
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
Unchanged from Q4 2024

52,947 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: California Code of Regulations 14-3100 et seq.³⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

As a condition of a self-renewing Solar Use Easement,⁴⁰ a solar easement project owner must submit a decommissioning plan and financial assurance to the local city or county government with jurisdiction. The locality submits the application, decommissioning plan, and proof of financial assurance to the California Department of Conservation for review and final approval. Soil management and site restoration plans are required to be filed with the Department. Site restoration plans must include restoration to the same condition that existed at the time of approval for the solar use easement, including restoration procedures, equipment and structure removal, and any provisions for monitoring restoration progress at the site.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

May be one or a combination of the following forms of assurance, including performance bonds, surety bonds, irrevocable letters of credit, trust funds, a corporate guarantee, and/or other forms of financial securities approved by the local government, but project owners must review and resubmit every five years.



²⁶ [California Code of Regulations 14-3100 et seq.](#)

²⁷ [California Government Code 51190\(c\)](#)

Connecticut

Statewide
Policy Model

#26

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
+2 compared to Q4 2024

2,003 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: General Statutes of Connecticut: 16-50k^{41,42}

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Apply to projects that are at least 2 MW on prime farmland or prime forestland. Decommissioning and returning the land to productive agricultural use would include removing solar arrays; removing racking posts completely from the ground by pulling them out (not just cutting them at ground level); removing foundations for inverters and transformers; decompacting compacted soils; backfilling excavations with only native soils; re-vegetating (if vegetation disturbance is a result of decommissioning); removing access roads, drainage ditches, and detention ponds and backfilling using native soils to level the terrain (if agreed upon by the landowner); and testing soil and incorporating needed amendments to restore the soil for farming.^{43,44}

According to draft guidance for siting solar on agricultural land, decommissioning plans must be filed with the Connecticut Siting Council as a part of any project application or petition.⁴⁵

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Projects on prime forestland or farmland that are at least 2 MW must furnish a bond to cover all costs of restoring the site to its former use when requesting a certificate of environmental compatibility at the beginning of project construction.



⁴¹ [Connecticut Statutes § 16-50k](#)

⁴² [Supplemental Connecticut Statutes § 16-50k](#)

⁴³ [Steps for Solar Development](#)

⁴⁴ [Draft Guidance for Siting Solar on Agricultural Land](#)

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Georgia

Statewide
Policy Model

#7
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
Unchanged from Q4 2024

7,656 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Code of Georgia 46-3-67 et seq.⁴⁶

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Apply State statute applies to new or renewed solar power facility agreements made on or after July 1, 2024, and requires companies leasing property for solar farms to establish decommissioning rules as part of the agreement. The agreement must stipulate that the operator/lessee of the facility is responsible for removing it from the landowner's property once the lease has been terminated, in addition to the following requirements: clear, clean, and removal of all solar energy devices and equipment, personal property, and any improvements used to support solar-related devices; for foundation used to support devices, transformers, or substations installed on the property the operator/lessee must clear, clean, and remove any foundation and cables to a depth of at least three feet below the surface grade of the land, and ensure that each hole is filled with a similar type of soil or predominant soil found on the property; must also remove overhead power or communication lines, access roads, and any rocks more than 12 inches in diameter that were excavated during the facility decommissioning process, and ensure that each hole is filled with similar or predominant soil found on the property; and that the surface is returned to its previous condition, including by reseeded pasture land with native grasses and legumes.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

State statute defines financial assurance as a surety or performance bond that renews automatically, is issued by a company listed on the U.S. Department of Treasury's List of Certified Companies, and has a strength rating of at least an "A." The assurance amount must be at least equal to the estimated cost of removing the facility and restoring the site to its previous condition, minus the salvage value of the facility, plus any portion of the facility's value that will be utilized to secure any outstanding debt. An updated cost estimate must be submitted no later than 20 years after the facility's commercial operation date, and at least once every five years after the operation date. Assurance must be provided by the time the facility is commercially operational. Local governments are not allowed to impose financial assurance requirements on an operator/lessee that has entered into a facility agreement and conforms to the assurance requirements stipulated above.



⁴⁶ [Code of Georgia 46-3-67 et seq.](#)

Hawaii

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#25
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-1 compared to Q4 2024

2,308 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

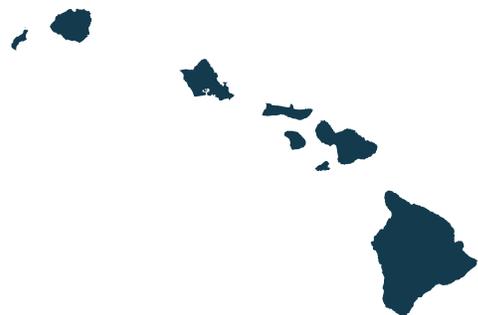
LAW: Hawaii Revised Statutes 205-4.5⁴⁷

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

As a Special Use Permit condition, solar energy facilities located on agricultural lands with a soil productivity rating of B or C must comply with decommissioning requirements and submit proof of financial assurance to the local county planning commission with jurisdiction before beginning construction. Local county commissions must submit all special use permit applications to the Hawaii Land Use Commission. Solar energy facilities must be decommissioned at the owner's expense, under which all equipment related to the facility must be removed within 12 months of the conclusion of operation or useful life of the facility. Soil and land conditions must also be restored to essentially the same state as before facility development took place.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Type unspecified, but must satisfy the county planning commission.



⁴⁷ [Hawaii Revised Statutes 205-4.5](#)

Illinois

Statewide
Policy Model

#10

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+1 compared to Q4 2024

6,557 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: 505 Illinois Compiled Statutes 147/ et seq.⁴⁸ & 55 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/5-12020⁴⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Solar facilities with a capacity over 500 kW located on agricultural land owned by a third party must file an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement outlining construction and deconstruction plans with the state Department of Agriculture and submit a deconstruction plan to the county government with jurisdiction prior to beginning construction. County governments cannot require stricter decommissioning requirements for ground-installed commercial solar energy systems that utilize solar energy primarily for wholesale or retail sale purposes. Commercial systems do not include utility-scale energy facilities eligible to participate in an Illinois Power Agency-conducted procurement event. An exemption is given to commercial solar development within a certified enterprise zone under the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act that was classified as industrial by its zoning authority after January 26, 2023, and is located within four miles of the intersection of Interstate 88 and Interstate 39.⁵⁰ The requirements outlined in the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement also hold true in case of abandonment, meaning when deconstruction has not been completed within 12 months after the facility reaches the end of its useful life, which is when the owner fails to pay the landowner any amount agreed upon in the Agreement for six consecutive months.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Regarding the above-mentioned solar facilities with a capacity of over 500 kW, the project owner must submit assurance to the county government with jurisdiction before beginning construction. County governments cannot require stricter financial assurance requirements for ground-installed commercial solar energy systems that utilize solar energy primarily for wholesale or retail sale purposes. An exemption is given to commercial solar development within a certified enterprise zone under the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act, classified as industrial by its zoning authority after January 26, 2023, and located within four miles of the intersection of Interstate 88 and Interstate 39. The financial assurance requirements remain even in case of abandonment, as defined above.



⁴⁸ [505 Illinois Compiled Statutes 147/ et seq.](#)

⁴⁹ [55 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/5-12020](#)

⁵⁰ [20 Illinois Compiled Statutes 665/1 et seq.](#)

Indiana

Statewide
Policy Model

#12
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
+4 compared to Q4 2024

5,814 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Indiana Code 8-1-42-1 et seq.⁵¹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The intent to decommission must be submitted to the local permit authority 60 days before the end of a commercial solar system's (those that are at least 10 MW in capacity and sell electricity at wholesale to off-site entities) service. Structures, foundations, roads, gravel areas, and cables shall be removed from the site to a depth of 36 inches below grade. The ground must be restored to a reasonably similar condition to that before the construction of the solar project.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Surety bond, parent company guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, or other proof deemed sufficient by the permit authority. Security shall be required in increments based on project life: 25% of total estimated decommissioning costs by the start date of the system's commercial operation. 50% of total estimated decommissioning costs by the fifth anniversary of system commercial operations and 100% by the tenth anniversary of operations. The estimated decommissioning cost shall be reevaluated by a licensed or registered engineer on the tenth anniversary of commercial operations and every five years thereafter.



⁵¹ [Indiana Code 8-1-42-1 et seq.](#)

Kentucky

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#32

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
+6 compared to Q4 2024

1,702 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Kentucky Revised Statutes 278.700-706⁵²

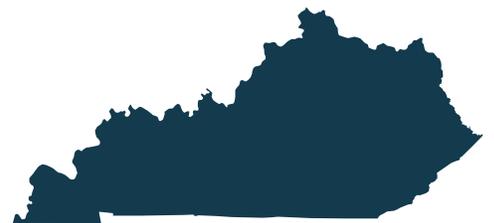
DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Local planning and zoning commissions can supersede state decommissioning and setback rules here. Merchant electric generating facilities (capacity 10 MW or above) must file a decommissioning plan as part of a completed application for certificate to construct to the office of the Public Service Commission, to describe how they will be decommissioned and dismantled at the end of their useful life. Decommissioning plans shall remove all above-ground facilities and underground components to a depth of three feet unless otherwise agreed to by the landowner. Plans shall return the land to a substantially similar state as it was found before construction. Interconnection components and other facilities shall be left in place for future use after decommissioning, unless requested by the landowner.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

A bond or similar financial security instrument is required. The amount of the bond shall be determined by an independent licensed engineer. It shall be either the calculated net present value of the cost of completing the decommissioning plan or the bond amount required by the county or municipal government with jurisdiction on the project site. Projects in multiple jurisdictions will use those authorities' highest bond security requirement. Suppose the facility is to be located in a locality that has not established a decommissioning bond or security obligation. In that case, the bond shall name the locality as a secondary beneficiary (with the locality's consent).

⁵² [Kentucky Revised Statutes 278.700-706](#)



Louisiana

Statewide
Policy Model

#31

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-1 compared to Q4 2024

1,765 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:1131⁵³ and 30:1154⁵⁴

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The statute requires, at minimum, property leases for producing solar energy to include decommissioning requirements. The decommissioning plan must include plans for closing at the end of the facility's life, or in the event that a disaster makes facility operations impossible. The plan must be updated every five years, reviewed by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. No specific facility size is given in the statute; besides that, a facility includes one or more solar energy systems, which explicitly includes a battery storage or an energy storage facility, among other supportive systems.

Operators of batteries used for renewable energy storage systems must obtain an installation permit from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and must have proof of financial security and a decommissioning plan.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Construction permits must include a bond or other acceptable financial security in an amount described by the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources for efficient site closure. Any bond or other financial instrument is allowed and must be payable to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources and may also be collected even from facilities certified by the Public Service Commission or New Orleans City Council (applicable to solar facilities sited in New Orleans) before August 3, 2022. The estimated amount or other specific bond/security requirements must be determined by reviewing the following: applicant assets, debts, and compliance history; condition and capacity of the facility; and the estimated cost of facility closure and site restoration, but only the salvage value and related infrastructure can be used to determine the estimated cost of restoration and closure if the materials are still available during decommissioning, while the facility owner is dealing with bankruptcy.



⁵³ [Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:1131](#)

⁵⁴ [Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:1154](#)

Maine

Statewide
Policy Model

#29

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

1,862 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Maine Revised Statutes 35-A §3491 et seq.⁵⁵ and 34-E §3498 et seq.⁵⁶

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Under state statute, the Department of Environmental Protection requires a decommissioning plan in all organized municipalities for solar projects that use 3 or more acres and start construction after September 30, 2021, or for such sized projects that undergo an ownership transfer after this date. Decommissioning must also include the removal of all solar components, including foundations and anchoring at depths of at least 24 inches or bedrock (whichever is less), among other structures and ancillary equipment to the same depths.

Suppose any developed portion is or is planned to be on farmland within five years before construction starts. In that case, the plan must provide for farmland restoration that allows the resumption of agricultural activities. Solar components on farmland at least 48 inches deep or to the depth of bedrock (whichever is less) must be removed. The decommissioning plan must be updated 15 years after approval of the initial plan and five years thereafter. The decommissioning plan must include the restoration of the grading and vegetation of utilized land and demonstrate current and future financial capacity to decommission properly. The Maine Land Use Planning Commission is responsible for enforcing decommissioning in the unorganized and deorganized areas of the state. If solar panels and other waste components of the solar project are recyclable, state decommissioning rules require such waste to be recycled by authorized facilities.

In case of a facility ownership transfer, the person transferring ownership will remain liable for implementing a decommissioning plan until the responsible environmental permitting entity approves transfer of the plan to the new facility owner/operator.

In terms of battery storage decommissioning, all system components, including battery modules, foundations, and related infrastructure, to a depth of at least 24 inches or to bedrock, whichever is less. If located on land classified as farmland within five years prior to construction, removal must be to at least 48 inches or to bedrock.

No person may construct or operate a battery storage system of 2 megawatts or more without an approved decommissioning plan. The plan must provide for recycling recyclable components and disposing of non-recyclable ones at authorized facilities.

⁵⁵ [Maine Revised Statutes 35-A § 3491 et seq.](#)

⁵⁶ [Maine Revised Statutes 34-E §3498 et seq.](#)

Maine

Statewide
Policy Model

#29
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

1,862 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

These requirements apply to systems beginning construction on or after January 1, 2024. For systems built earlier, a decommissioning plan is required if ownership transfers on or after that date. The prior owner remains jointly liable until the permitting entity approves the plan's transfer to the new owner.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Eligible assurance types include performance or surety bonds and irrevocable letters of credit. As for battery storage systems, the individual designated in the decommissioning plan as responsible for carrying out decommissioning activities must provide financial assurance – such as a performance bond, surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or another form acceptable to the environmental permitting authority – covering the full cost of decommissioning. This includes both the cost of recycling components of the battery energy storage system that can be recycled and the cost of properly disposing of non-recyclable components at authorized facilities. The plan must require that the financial assurance be reviewed and updated 15 years after initial plan approval, and at least every five years thereafter. All updates must be submitted to the environmental permitting authority by December 31 of the year in which the update is due.



Maryland

Statewide

Policy Model

#22

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+1 compared to Q4 2024

2,724 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Maryland Code 7-216.2⁵⁷ & 7-218⁵⁸

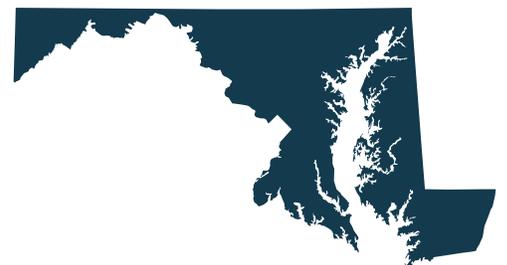
DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Owners of a solar energy project with a capacity more than 1 MW – excluding rooftop, canopy, or building-integrated systems, or systems located behind the meter of a retail customer – that either participates in aggregate net metering, is a community solar system, or is designed to produce electricity for sale on the wholesale market must enter into a decommissioning agreement with the Public Service Commission using a form provided by the Commission.

As part of the state's Energy Storage Pilot Program, the owner or operator of distribution-connected front-of-the-meter energy storage devices must submit a proposed decommissioning plan that includes a strategy to maximize the recycling or reuse of all qualifying components. The owner or operator may submit a revised recycling and reuse plan up to one year before implementing the decommissioning plan to incorporate new recycling or reuse opportunities.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Project owners must post a surety bond with the Commission for a maximum of 125% of the estimated future cost of decommissioning, not including salvage value. The bond must be updated every five years.



⁵⁷ [Maryland Code Section 7-216.2](#)

⁵⁸ [Maryland Code Section 7-218](#)

Massachusetts

**Local Option w/
State Model**
Policy Model

#14
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

5,630 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Massachusetts Model Zoning Bylaw for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems⁵⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The model bylaws recommend removal requirements for solar energy systems that cease operation, which includes systems whose purpose is to store and distribute solar energy for electricity generation. All physical components must be removed, solid and hazardous wastes must be disposed of according to applicable standards, and erosion from the site must be minimized through stabilization or re-vegetation. With agreement from the Site Plan Review Authority, owners/operators may leave landscaping and designated below-grade foundations in place to minimize vegetation disturbance or erosion.

According to this model, a large-scale ground-mounted solar energy is considered abandoned in the event that it fails to operate for more than a year without written consent by the Site Plan Review Authority. The local government under which the system site is located has the right to remove the abandoned system, if it has not been removed within 150 days of abandonment.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Communities may require financial surety, but specific types are not listed.



⁵⁹ [Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Model Zoning Bylaw \(December 2014\)](#)

Michigan

Statewide
Policy Model

#24

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+2 compared to Q4 2024

2,573 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Michigan Compiled Laws 324.36104e⁶⁰ & 460.1221 et seq.⁶¹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Solar projects with a capacity of at least 50 MW must provide a decommissioning plan consistent with the agreement between the landowner and the project owner/applicant. The property must be restored to pre-construction conditions, and the plan must include the removal of any above-surface infrastructure no longer serving a purpose. Solar projects include the various ancillary and supporting equipment on the site, explicitly including energy storage facilities. Site plans must be submitted to the Public Service Commission as well as the clerk of the affected local government.

Solar projects participating in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program must make sure that the utilized farmland is restored back to normal agricultural operations by the first growing season after the solar project has been completely removed.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Solar projects with at least 50 MW capacity must submit assurance in the form of a bond, a parent company guarantee, or an irrevocable letter of credit. Cash is not allowed as a form of assurance. The assurance amount must not be less than the estimated decommissioning cost after deducting the salvage value of the project assets. The required financial assurance may be submitted in increments through the following payment schedule according to the time of commercial operation: at least 25% by the start of full commercial operation; at least 50% by the start of the fifth year of operation; 100% by the start of the tenth year of operation.

Solar projects participating in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program must submit a bond or irrevocable letter of credit payable to the state as assurance for reverting the land used back to agricultural use. Assurance must be adjusted every three years to ensure proper coverage of estimated decommissioning costs.



⁶⁰ [Michigan Compiled Laws 324.36104e](#)

⁶¹ [Michigan Compiled Laws 460.1221 et seq.](#)

Minnesota

Statewide
Policy Model

#21
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

2,945 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Minnesota Administrative Rules 7854.0500⁶² & Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 - 216E.02⁶³

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Statutes and rules requiring decommissioning impact large electric power generation plants that operate at a capacity of at least 50 MW, with plants needing a permit from the Public Utilities Commission to operate. The permit application must include the following information regarding decommissioning and site restoration: anticipated project life; cost estimates, methods and schedule for updating cost estimates, and how decommissioning and restoration will take place.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Required as part of the decommissioning requirements. No specifics on types of assurance.

Note: The decommissioning and financial assurance requirements stipulated above are statutorily designated for large wind projects. However, the Public Utilities Commission has cited these requirements for use towards the siting of a large solar project as well.⁶⁴



⁶² [Minnesota Administrative Rules 7854.0500](#)

⁶³ [Minnesota Statutes 216E.01 - 216E.02](#)

⁶⁴ [Public Utilities Commission Docket No. E-6928/GS-14-515 Administrative Law Judge Report \(April 9, 2015\)](#)

Montana

Statewide
Policy Model

#42

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

438 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Montana Code Annotated 75-26-304⁶⁵ and
Administrative Rules of Montana 17.86.101 et seq.⁶⁶

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

State administrative rules require solar generation facility owners -- those with a nameplate capacity of at least 2 MW and produces electricity not consumed on the premises of the solar facility or on immediately adjacent premises -- to submit decommissioning plans to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which must include the following: a cost estimate for decommissioning; as-built plans of the facility; agreements signed by the landowner and project owner that provide information on alternative reclamation strategies or the non-removal of equipment and buildings; a description of the chosen decommissioning process; removal of electrical and ancillary equipment; removal underground cables to a depth of 24 inches or deeper if necessary for reclamation purposes; removal of solar foundations to minimum depth of 26 inches below grade or an alternative if necessary; soil reclamation; repair of public roads and other publicly necessary infrastructure, including removal and grading of all access roads; salvage value estimates, among other cost estimates.

In case of abandonment – defined as when the facility generates at most 10% of the monthly max generation potential for 12 consecutive months–, decommissioning must start within 90 days after, unless given approval by the DEQ for an alternative decommissioning plan. Decommissioning must then be completed within two years after abandonment, or according to a reasonable schedule proposed by the owner and approved by the DEQ. The owner must notify the DEQ within 30 days after abandonment and 30 days after beginning onsite decommissioning work.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Private bonding must be provided, including the terms and conditions of a lease agreement between the landowner and project owner incorporating said bonding. Facilities that began operating after 2006 are required to submit a decommissioning bond no later than the 15th year of operation. For facilities that commence operation on or after October 1, 2025, the deadline for submitting a decommissioning bond is shortened to no later than the 12th year of operation. Projects are exempt from bond submission if the private landowner owns at least 10% of the facility. The owner must submit either a surety or collateral bond.

⁶⁵ [Montana Code Annotated 75-26-304](#)

⁶⁶ [Administrative Rules of Montana 17.86.101 et seq.](#)



Nebraska

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#48
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

224 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Nebraska Revised Statute 66-911.01⁶⁷ & 70-1014.02⁶⁸

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

No specifics are given on what needs to be included in the decommissioning plan or what kinds of solar facilities must have a plan, except that it depends on local requirements.

There are explicit requirements for privately developed solar energy generation facilities, which are those owned by at least one private electricity supplier and not wholly owned by any public entity. Such facilities must certify to the Nebraska Power Review Board that it will comply with decommissioning requirements adopted by a local government that has jurisdiction over privately developed facilities, and must submit a decommissioning plan under which the private supplier bears all costs.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The type of financial assurance that is required depends on local decommissioning requirements.

Explicit rules for privately developed solar energy generation facilities indicate that the private electricity supplier owning the facility must post a security bond or other kind of assurance by the sixth year of the facility's commercial operation.

⁶⁷ [Nebraska Revised Statute 66-911.01](#)

⁶⁸ [Nebraska Revised Statute 70-1014.02](#)



Nevada

Statewide
Policy Model

#6

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

8,180 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Nevada Revised Statutes 704.734⁶⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Ground-mounted utility-scale solar projects with a capacity exceeding 70 MW that are directly connected to an electric transmission system are required to file a retirement plan for any surplus asset — defined as an asset that is out of service and no longer needed, suitable, or reasonably intended for future electricity generation.

The plan must include information such as the name, address, and contact information of the landowner on which the project is sited—if the owner is not an electric utility or an independent power producer. It must also include a description of how the site will be decommissioned, including the disposition of materials used for decommissioning, and any materials used for the disposal, reuse, or recycling of equipment. The plan should outline a timeline for decommissioning, a description of how the land will be returned to its previous state before the project was constructed, and any equipment related to the project that is to be salvaged. Cost estimates must be included, covering expenses for recycling and restoring the land. Equipment considered part of the project includes solar arrays, accessory buildings, battery storage facilities, transmission facilities, and any infrastructure necessary for the project's operation.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The surplus asset retirement plan must include a description of how the surplus asset retirement plan will be funded.

⁶⁹ [Nevada Revised Statutes 704.734](#)



New Hampshire

Statewide

Policy Model

#43

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

354 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: New Hampshire Revised Statutes Section 162-H:7⁷⁰ & New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Site 301.08⁷¹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

As part of an application for a certificate for a solar facility (defined as those with a capacity of at least 30 MW, and explicitly include storage facilities with at least 30 MW of peak capacity) that must be filed with the chairperson of the site evaluation committee in the state, a description of the elements for a facility decommissioning plan is required. The plan must include a description of sufficient funding for implementation (not accounting for salvage value), that all transformers must be transported off-site, and the removal of underground infrastructure at depths less than four feet, while those at depths greater than four feet must be abandoned in place.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Plans include details of the financial assurances, which can be an irrevocable standby letter of credit, a performance bond, a surety bond, or an unconditional payment guarantee executed by a parent company of the facility owner maintaining an investment-grade credit rating.



⁷⁰ [New Hampshire Revised Statutes 162-H:7](#)

⁷¹ [New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Site 301.08](#)

New Jersey

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#13
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-3 compared to Q4 2024

5,736 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: New Jersey Administrative Code 2:76-2A.12⁷²

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Solar generation facilities located on commercial farmland subject to the Right to Farm Act must submit a conservation plan, which includes decommissioning, to the local soil conservation district with jurisdiction.

Solar generation projects located in the Pinelands Management area must submit a landscaping plan that includes decommissioning.⁷³

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The state does not require financial assurance, but localities may impose financial assurance requirements for the approval of projects.



⁷² [New Jersey Administrative Code 2:76-2A.12](#)

⁷³ [New Jersey Administrative Code 7:50-5.36](#)

New York

Statewide
Policy Model

#8

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+1 compared to Q4 2024

7,448 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: New York Codes, Rules and Regulations 19-900-1.2, 900-2.24, & 900-10.2⁷⁴

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

As part of the final decommissioning and site restoration plan that must be submitted to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting in conjunction with other pre-construction compliance filings for facilities that cannot be completed or reach their end-of-life, a cost estimate is required for components removed four feet below grade in agricultural land and three feet below grade in non-agricultural land, as well as removal and restoration of any access road locations). The cost estimates must include a gross and net estimate, including projected salvage value and a 15% contingency cost based on the overall estimate. At a minimum, the plan must address environmental impacts, timeline, funding, future site usage, recycling, safety, and removal of hazardous conditions. Solar facilities of at least 25 MW must follow these requirements, including any co-located energy storage system.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The final decommissioning and restoration plan requires proof of a letter of credit or other financial assurance approved by the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. A letter of credit must be provided a year after system operation, with updates every five years thereafter.



⁷⁴ [New York Codes, Rules and Regulations 19-900-1.2, 900-2.24, 900-10.2, 900-1.2, 900-2.24, & 900-10.2](#)

North Carolina

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#5
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-1 compared to Q4 2024

9,703 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: North Carolina General Statutes 130A-309.240⁷⁵

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Statutory decommissioning rules⁷⁶ in North Carolina apply to new solar projects with a nameplate capacity of 2 MW or greater, including ancillary battery storage facilities. Project owners must register with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Registration must include a decommissioning plan—including a summary of project equipment subject to decommissioning requirements and identification of any associated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—along with a decommissioning cost estimate, proof of financial assurance, and payment of the registration fee. Projects are categorized as either existing or new, depending on when the application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was submitted. Existing projects are those that submitted CPCNs before June 26, 2023; new projects are those that submitted CPCNs on or after June 26, 2023, or have been expanded or rebuilt after that date. Registration fees are as follows:

Existing Utility-Scale Solar Projects (USSPs):

- Initial registration fee → \$175/MW AC
- Subsequent registration fees → \$25/MW AC

New USSPs with capacity ≤ 20 MW AC:

- Initial registration fee → \$500/MW AC
- Subsequent registration fees → \$50/MW AC

New USSPs with capacity > 20 MW AC:

- Initial registration fee → lesser of \$300/MW AC or \$50,000
- Subsequent registration fees → lesser of \$25/MW AC or \$25,000

A late fee of \$75 per month may be charged per project for any month in which full or partial payment of a fee is not submitted. Registration updates and subsequent fees must be submitted every five years.⁷⁷

Decommissioning is required after project operations cease and must include removal of all system components, including panels, foundations, underground cables, fencing, and batteries.

⁷⁵ [North Carolina General Statutes 130A-309.240](#)

⁷⁶ The DEQ [finalized](#) financial assurance criteria and clarified decommissioning [rules](#) in 2025.

⁷⁷ [Registration Form and Fee Payment Guidance](#)

North Carolina

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#5
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-1 compared to Q4 2024

9,703 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

Materials must be reused and recycled where practicable, and both hazardous and non-hazardous waste must be disposed of appropriately. Site restoration must return the land to its pre-project condition, or to another condition agreed upon by the project owner and the landowner. Local governments and landowners may impose more stringent conditions through contracts.⁷⁸

A decommissioning cost estimate must be submitted at the time of registration and updated every five years. For new projects, the estimate must reflect the costs for a third party to conduct decommissioning, including labor, transportation, and fees for the nearest available recycling or disposal facility. A separate estimate for salvage value must also be included. New project owners may request a reduction in the amount of financial assurance based on the salvage value of the equipment. However, beginning 20 years after project operations commence or five years before the end of the initial power purchase agreement—whichever comes first—financial assurance may not fall below the total cost to detach modules, transport them (and hazardous waste, if applicable) to a recycling facility, and pay all associated disposal or recycling fees.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Financial assurance may be demonstrated using corporate guarantees, financial tests, insurance, letters of credit, surety bonds, trust funds, or a combination of these methods. It must be updated every five years alongside decommissioning cost estimates. If a local government requires financial assurance, project owners may request that the Department accept proof of local financial assurance in place of providing it directly to the DEQ. In the event of a change in ownership of a new USSP, the new owner must submit an executed financial assurance mechanism to the Department within 30 days. The previous owner remains responsible for financial assurance until the Department formally releases them, having verified that the new owner's assurance meets statutory and regulatory requirements. The DEQ has provided approved required language for various financial assurance mechanisms.



⁷⁸ [Rule Applicability and Compliance Timeframe](#)

⁷⁹ [North Carolina Administrative Code Title 15A Chapter 1 Subchapter V Section .0107](#)

⁸⁰ [Decommissioning and Financial Assurance Guidance](#)

North Dakota

Statewide

Policy Model

#50

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

2 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: North Dakota Administrative Code 69-09-10⁸¹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Apply to commercial solar facilities with a total nameplate generating capacity of at least 500 kW. The decommissioning plan must include the anticipated life of the facility, a cost estimate (not including salvage offsets, and must be updated ten years after initial approval and then a continual update every five years after), cost estimate method, how the project will be decommissioned, expected impacts on natural resources, and a detailed financial assurance plan. The plan must be submitted to and approved by the Public Service Commission. The decommissioning period must start within 12 months after end-of-life or facility abandonment and be completed within 24 months after end-of-life or abandonment. Abandonment is presumed if no significant construction – meaning land clearing, excavation, or other activities that would impact the site environment – has occurred within a 24 month period between the start of construction and completion of the facility.

When actively decommissioning the facility, the following is required: removing all panel racking, support, fencing, cables, inverters, and other equipment; removing underground cables, pilings, anchors, foundations, buildings, and other ancillary equipment; restoring the site to the original topography before the facility was developed, with topsoil re-spread over disturbed areas at restored levels; as well as reseeded and restoring/grading topsoil of areas according to conservation recommendations. A waiver may be given to facilities with a capacity of max 5 MW.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Assurance must be provided upon ten years of operation for sufficient decommissioning. It can be in the form of a performance bond, in combination or alone, as cash escrow (held by a federally insured financial institution), a surety bond, an irrevocable letter of credit, a guarantee, a parent guarantee, or another acceptable form of assurance.

The owner of the facility must provide assurance that is equal to 5% of the estimated cost of facility construction prior to actually constructing the facility, so that it may be used for decommissioning in case of abandonment prior to operations.



⁸¹ [North Dakota Administrative Code 69-09-10](#)

Ohio

Statewide

Policy Model

#11

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+2 compared to Q4 2024

6,182 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Ohio Revised Code 4906.21 et seq.⁸²

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

At least 60 days prior to the commencement of construction of a large utility solar facility that has at least a 50 MW capacity, the applicant must submit a comprehensive decommissioning plan to the state's power siting board. The plan must include a schedule for decommissioning that cannot exceed 12 months from the end of commercial operations. The plan must include a full cost estimate of decommissioning the facility, proper disposal of all components, and restoration of the site to the pre-construction state. The cost estimate cannot include the salvage value for any facility materials.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

A performance bond must be posted prior to construction and updated every five years. Per state law, if the most recent cost estimate update associated with the bond is higher than the previous estimate, the bond must be increased proportionately, and if the most recent cost estimate update is lower, the bond must not be decreased proportionately.



⁸² [Ohio Revised Code 4906.21 et seq.](#)

Oklahoma

Statewide
Policy Model

#39

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

+1 compared to Q4 2024

513 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Oklahoma Statute 17-820.1 et seq.⁸³

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The statute applies to commercial solar power systems but does not specify a size threshold for qualifying facilities. It covers solar facilities classified as generation assets and sets requirements for decommissioning and land restoration. A solar facility agreement is a lease between the landowner and the grantee – a non-utility entity that leases the land for the solar facility – authorizing such operations. A solar facility includes related infrastructure such as battery storage, transformers, and access roads

All agreements must require the grantee to remove solar infrastructure and restore the land, including by removing solar panels, transformers, substations, and underground cables to a depth of at least three feet, and refilling any excavated areas with similar soil. At the landowner's request, the grantee must also remove roads and restore the ground surface. If requested within 180 days of a decommissioning notice, or after the facility stops producing commercial electricity, the grantee must also remove large rocks, return the land to a tillable condition, and reseed any pasture with native or noninvasive grasses.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The facility agreement must also require the grantee to provide financial assurance – such as a letter of credit, bond, or parent company guaranty with investment-grade credit – covering the net cost of decommissioning, accounting for salvage value and any pledged asset value. Cost and salvage estimates must be made by a licensed, independent third-party engineer. These estimates must be updated by the 10th year of operation and every five years thereafter. The grantee is responsible for maintaining adequate financial assurance throughout the lease term and may not cancel coverage without providing a replacement. Financial assurance must be delivered by either the agreement's termination or the 20th anniversary of commercial operations – defined as the facility's approval for market participation by a regional transmission organization. If ownership of the facility transfers, existing financial assurance must remain in place until the new owner provides compliant coverage.



⁸³ [Oklahoma Statute 17-820.1 et seq.](#)

Oregon

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#27
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

1,995 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Oregon Revised Statutes 195.300⁸⁴ & 215.446⁸⁵

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The statute impacts solar generation facilities using more than 100 acres but not more than 160 acres of high-value farmland; more than 100 acres but not more than 1,280 acres of predominantly cultivated or predominantly made of classes I to IV soils; or is using more than 320 acres but not more than 1,920 acres located on other kinds of land. As part of the statute, to receive a solar facility permit, the applicant must demonstrate that the facility site can be restored to useful and nonhazardous conditions. Land use permit applications must be submitted to the governing body designated by the county in which the land is located.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Applicants must obtain financial assurances that satisfy and secure site restoration. No specifics are given on what kind of assurance is required, but the county can specify the timeline for assurance.



⁸⁴ [Oregon Revised Statutes 195.300](#)

⁸⁵ [Oregon Revised Statutes 215.446](#)

Rhode Island

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#34

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-3 compared to Q4 2024

1,252 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Rhode Island General Laws 42-98-3⁸⁶ & 42-98-8⁸⁷;
Rhode Island General Laws § 39-33-1 et seq.⁸⁸

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

State law requires plans for decommissioning the facility at the end of its useful life, which must be submitted via application to the state's Energy Facility Siting Board. The requirements impact major energy facilities (including solar) with a gross capacity of at least 40 MW. No additional information is given via state law.

Separately, state law also requires the developer of any ground-mounted solar system to submit a decommissioning plan when they apply for necessary permits from the municipality in which the site is located. The decommissioning plan must include a cost estimate for decommissioning the site, and the state's Department of Environmental Management must provide technical assistance for municipalities and developers creating plans, and municipalities are not liable for implementing the plan. Decommissioning ground-mounted solar systems includes removal of all system components, including foundations, buildings, roads, cables, among other components, as well as stabilization and/or revegetation of a site to minimize erosion. This state law does not override existing local ordinances related to ground-mounted solar decommissioning or other renewable systems.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

State law regarding ground-mounted solar systems also allows municipalities to require developers to submit a performance bond to cover decommissioning costs.



⁸⁶ [Rhode Island General Laws § 42-98-3](#)

⁸⁷ [Rhode Island General Laws § 42-98-8](#)

⁸⁸ [Rhode Island General Laws § 39-33-1 et seq.](#)

South Carolina

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#23

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-2 compared to Q4 2024

2,697 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: SC Code of Regulations 61-107.20⁸⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Regulations enforced by the Department of Environmental Services decommissioning requirements for large solar systems that occupy more than thirteen acres specify that those that intend to operate a new system must register with the Department – large solar systems explicitly include co-located storage systems. Registration information must include the projected date of decommissioning, the number of storage batteries, and a signed agreement between owner and landowner that conforms to post-decommissioning land restoration plans, among other things. Registrations must be updated every five years from the submission date or with a transfer of ownership until the system is decommissioned.

Five years before the system's projected end-of-life date, the registered person in question must submit a decommissioning plan for review and approval, which must be updated whenever facility changes deviate from the approved plan, including cost estimates. The plan must include a description of the system, total property acreage, the total acreage used for panels and ancillary equipment, the proposed number of panels for commissioning, and a list of all system components to be recycled or disposed of; a statement of the decommissioning processes objective (e.g. "to reasonably restore the site to its prior use or to a different use as approved by the owner and landowner"); the estimated time frame to complete the decommissioning process; a description of what tasks and equipment are required for the entire process; a cost estimate of recycling or disposal of system components, which may include a salvage plan to support the salvage value of ancillary and system equipment; and a financial assurance mechanism that will be utilized.

Decommissioning is considered official and complete after all solar system components are removed and disposed of properly or the site has been reasonably restored. If a system does not produce electricity for 12 continuous months, the registered owner/operator will have 12 months to decommission the solar system unless the Department approves otherwise.



⁸⁹ [South Carolina Code of Regulations 61-107.20](#)

South Carolina

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#23

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-2 compared to Q4 2024

2,697 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

After the Department of Environmental Services approves a system's decommissioning cost estimate, adjusted for inflation, a financial assurance mechanism paid to the Department must be submitted for final review and approval. Assurance mechanisms such as cash, insurance, trust funds, surety bonds, letters of credit, certificates of deposit, and financial tests are allowable. The system can satisfy assurance requirements by submitting proof of compliance from the local government in which the system is located. If the local government submittal is less than the Department-approved cost estimate, the Department will require a higher amount to meet assurance requirements.

Local governments are allowed to establish and keep assurance ordinances that are stricter than the statewide standard, and assurance may be updated to include the salvage value of system equipment. The system's owner and/or operator may lower the assurance amount if the approved cost estimate is higher than the maximum cost of decommissioning. The Department is allowed to take possession of an assurance mechanism if decommissioning, post-decommissioning restoration, or a renewal/provision of an alternative acceptable assurance is not completed. The assurance requirements do not apply to systems owned and operated by local, state, or federal government entities.



South Dakota

Statewide
Policy Model

#46

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-1 compared to Q4 2024

270 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: South Dakota Administrative Rules 20:10:22:33⁹⁰

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The statute requires a decommissioning plan to be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission that includes cost estimates and the site condition estimates of decommissioning for a solar energy facility, which is defined as a new facility, or facility expansion, capable of generating at least 100 MW in capacity of electricity, as well as hybrid facilities – those with multiple types of generation sources and a single point of interconnection to the distribution or transmission system. A facility expansion is defined as the addition of new solar panels capable of generating at least 25 MW or more of electricity, that are to be managed in common and integrated with existing panels, with the combined capacity of the existing and new solar panels being at least 100 MW.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

A bond, guarantee, insurance, or other instrument is required to provide funding for decommissioning. The Public Utilities Commission must consider the facility's size, location, and financial condition of the application before determining what specific type of funding is required; the same criteria must be used to determine the amount of funding.



⁹⁰ [South Dakota Administrative Rules 20:10:22:33](#)

Tennessee

Statewide
Policy Model

#36
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-2 compared to Q4 2024

1,185 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Tennessee Code 66-9-207⁹¹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Solar power facilities with a capacity of 5 MW or greater must enter into agreements that provide for the removal of all facility components located on a landowner's premises up to a depth of 36 inches. The land must be restored to its condition prior to the beginning of construction as near as reasonably possible.

Local governments may regulate solar facilities according to their zoning authority, but may not impose more stringent requirements than the state's. Solar power facilities explicitly include energy storage systems.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

A solar facility agreement must deliver financial assurance to the landowner in incremental amounts: at least 5% of the decommissioning cost by the commercial operation date, at least 50% of the cost on the tenth anniversary of system operations, and the full decommissioning cost by the fifteenth anniversary of system operations. Local government may not require financial assurance rules that are more stringent or additional to those required by the state. Acceptable financial assurance includes a surety bond, collateral bond, irrevocable letter of credit, parent guarantee, cash, cashier's check, certificate of deposit, or other approved negotiated instrument.

⁹¹ [Tennessee Code 66-9-207](#)



Texas

Statewide
Policy Model

#2

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

48,272 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Texas Utilities Code 302⁹² and 303⁹³

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Each private (i.e. non-utility-owned) solar installation approved after September 1, 2021, must include an agreement between the landowner and a land lease grantee for the grantee to remove all panels, mounting and racking equipment, wiring, overhead wiring, transformers, substations, and footings from the site. All removals must go to a depth of three feet below the surface grade at the project site. At the landowner's request, decommissioning agreements must provide for the removal of any road constructed for the solar project and any rock over twelve inches in diameter excavated during the decommissioning and removal process. Property must be returned to a tillable state and/or returned to as near a condition as possible to its state prior to construction of the solar facility, including re-seeding native grasses. Developers of projects are required to collect and reuse or recycle all reusable components of a solar facility and properly dispose of any non-reusable or hazardous materials. Solar facilities explicitly include a battery or energy storage facility.

Specific decommissioning rules exist for storage facilities, as battery energy storage facility agreements must include decommissioning and financial assurance provisions to protect landowners and ensure responsible end-of-life management. Decommissioning requires the grantee to remove all system components they installed, including batteries, transformers, substations, buried cables, and overhead lines. Foundations and cables must be removed to at least three feet below grade, with disturbed areas backfilled using similar soil. The grantee must recycle or reuse components wherever practicable and properly dispose of non-recyclable materials in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, using hazardous waste or municipal solid waste facilities as appropriate. At the landowner's request, the grantee must also remove roads, restore the site to tillable condition, remove rocks, reseed pastureland, and otherwise return the land as closely as possible to its original condition.



⁹² [Texas Utilities Code § 302](#)

⁹³ [Texas Utilities Code § 303](#)

Texas

Statewide
Policy Model

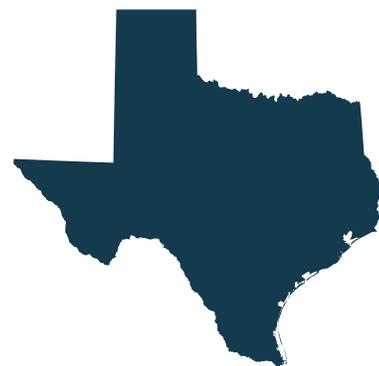
#2
SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
Unchanged from Q4 2024

48,272 MW
Total Installed Solar
Capacity

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Acceptable forms of financial assurance include a parent company guarantee with a minimum investment grade credit rating for the parent company issued by a major domestic credit rating agency, a letter of credit, a bond, or another form of financial assurance reasonably acceptable to the landowner. The amount of financial assurance must be at least equal to the estimated amount by which the cost of removing the solar power facilities from the landowner's property and restoring the property to as near as reasonably possible the condition of the property as of the date the agreement begins exceeds the salvage value of the solar power facilities, less any portion of the value of the solar power facilities pledged to secure outstanding debt. Project owners must submit an updated estimate on removal costs on or before the ten-year anniversary of the project and every five years thereafter. If a transfer of ownership of the solar facility is made by the operator or lessee, the financial security provided by that operator or lessee must remain until the date verification of financial security meeting the agreement requirements stipulated in statute is provided to the landowner.

For battery energy storage systems, the grantee must provide financial assurance—such as a guaranty, letter of credit, bond, or similar instrument—covering decommissioning and site restoration costs, minus salvage value and pledged asset value. Estimates must be prepared by an independent licensed engineer, with the initial estimate due by year 10 of operation and updates at least every five years. Financial assurance must be in place by the earlier of the agreement's end or year 15. It must remain sufficient throughout the agreement and cannot be canceled without replacement. In the case of ownership transfer, coverage must remain until the new owner provides compliant assurance.



Vermont

Statewide
Policy Model

#41

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-2 compared to Q4 2024

442 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Vermont Statutes Annotated 30 § 248⁹⁴ & Vermont Public Utility Commission Rules 5.100⁹⁵ and 5.900⁹⁶

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

The Public Utility Commission must adopt rules related to issuing certificates of public good for in-state facilities, including decommissioning plans. The requirements as laid out by the Commission include the following: submission of decommissioning cost estimates in present-day dollars (to include all labor, equipment, transportation, and associated disposal costs; restoration costs; primary agricultural soil reclamation costs; permitting costs associated with decommissioning; activity management, supervisions, and site safety costs; and any other costs); salvage value cannot be subtracted from cost estimates; estimate preparer information; renewal of the decommissioning plan every three years, among others. The decommissioning requirements are directed towards non-utility-owned facilities with a more than 500 kW plant capacity. The Commission may require the above requirements for utility-owned facilities or mandate alternative means. Non-utility-owned facilities that have a capacity of at least 150 kW and up to 500 kW must be removed with a guarantee of site restoration to make sure land conditions are rehabilitated to the greatest extent practicable.

Net-metered facilities with a capacity of at least 150 kW must also submit a decommissioning plan that must provide for removing and safely disposing of system components and restoring primary agricultural soils if they are within the system area limits.

Roof-mounted facilities and parking lot canopies are exempt from the rules.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The Commission's requirements include financial assurance, specifically an irrevocable standby letter of credit equal to the estimated decommissioning and restoration costs. The letter of credit must be issued by an A-rated financial institution. The Commission provides a sample letter of credit based on what has previously been approved, and may approve other forms of financial security.



⁹⁴ [Vermont Statutes Annotated 30 § 248](#)

⁹⁵ [Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule 5.100](#)

⁹⁶ [Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule 5.900](#)

⁹⁷ [Vermont Public Utility Commission Sample Letter of Credit](#)

Virginia

Statewide

Policy Model

#9

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-1 compared to Q4 2024

7,150 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Code of Virginia 15.2-2241.2⁹⁸

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Localities shall require a written agreement to decommission a solar energy facility as part of local approval processes or as a site plan approval condition. Decommissioning applies to solar energy equipment, facilities, and devices and requires reasonable property restoration, including soil stabilization and re-vegetation of the ground cover disturbed by the project.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The owner, lessee, or project developer must provide assurance to the applicable locality in which the solar facility is located through either certified funds, cash escrow, a bond, letter of credit, or parent guarantee based upon the estimates of a licensed professional engineer in the state. The licensed professional must have experience preparing decommissioning estimates and be approved by the corresponding locality. Estimates may include the net salvage value of related equipment, facilities, or devices.

⁹⁸ [Code of Virginia 15.2-2241.2](#)



Washington

Statewide Optional
Policy Model

#37

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

-1 compared to Q4 2024

913 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Washington Administrative Code 51-54A-1207 et seq.⁹⁹, 463-10¹⁰⁰, 463-28¹⁰¹, & 463-72¹⁰²

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Washington permits a developer the option to apply for certification through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)¹⁰³ instead of from their local authority. According to the EFSEC, applicants may receive certification for alternative energy electrical generation facilities, including solar facilities, of any size.¹⁰⁴ EFSEC approval would preempt local requirements. The application must be approved by the EFSEC and comply with the definitions of energy facilities listed in Washington Statutes. EFSEC applicants must provide a plan for site restoration and/or preservation for approval by the Council. Plans must provide processes and measures to restore or preserve the site to protect the environment and all segments of the public. Site restoration plans should parallel decommissioning plans, and must have enough detail to resolve the project's anticipated environmental, health, and safety issues. Upon completion of construction, the certificate holder for the facility must review the plan using current knowledge and information every five years (or when there is a change in project status) and report to the EFSEC.

For energy storage systems, both newly commissioned systems and existing systems that have been retrofitted, replaced, or recommissioned must include a decommissioning plan as part of the commissioning process. The plan must detail procedures to ensure a safe and effective shutdown of the storage and safety systems. It shall also include contingencies for removing an intact, operational energy storage system from service, as well as procedures for removing systems that have been damaged by fire or other events.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The site restoration plans submitted to the EFSEC must include a provision of evidence of insurance coverage and closure bonds or other financial instruments in an amount justified by the restoration plan. This applies to projects seeking EFSEC certification rather than local approval.

⁹⁹ [Washington Administrative Code 51-54A-1207](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Washington Administrative Code 463-10](#)

¹⁰¹ [Washington Administrative Code 463-28](#)

¹⁰² [Washington Administrative Code 463-72](#)

¹⁰³ [State of Washington - Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council](#)

¹⁰⁴ [State of Washington - Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council: Certification](#)

[Process](#)



West Virginia

Statewide
Policy Model

#47

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

225 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: West Virginia Administrative Code 60-11-1 et seq.¹⁰⁵

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

Solar generation facility owners must prepare a decommissioning plan and submit it to the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), unless exempt. Landowners and project owners may reach alternative agreements to the requirements below. Exempt facilities have a nameplate capacity under 1 MW or are operated by a public utility capable of demonstrating acceptable financial integrity and long-term viability to the Public Service Commission. Decommissioning plans shall include a commitment to remove all above-ground solar panels and towers and diagrams of all structural and electrical components and all disturbances associated with the facility. Plans must include descriptions of the manner of decommissioning and removal of all overhead electrical equipment, transformers, and structures associated with facility operations except those associated with interconnecting to the electric grid. All underground components must be removed to a depth of 24 inches, and foundations must be removed to a depth of 36 inches. Sites must be reclaimed to the approximate original surface topography, and reseeding or revegetation is required to prevent adverse hydrological effects.

In case of abandonment – defined as when the facility generates at most 10% of the monthly max generation potential for 12 consecutive months–, decommissioning must start within 90 days after, unless given approval by the DEP for an alternative decommissioning plan. Decommissioning must then be completed within two years after abandonment, or according to a reasonable schedule proposed by the owner and approved by the DEP. The owner must notify the DEP within 30 days after abandonment and 30 days after beginning onsite decommissioning work. Abandonment does not include facilities undergoing a repowering period.



¹⁰⁵ [West Virginia Administrative Code 60-11-1 et seq.](#)

West Virginia

Statewide
Policy Model

#47

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking

Unchanged from Q4 2024

225 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Each facility must provide a decommissioning bond within one year of the initiation of commercial operation. The preliminary bond amount will be determined by the DEP in consultation with the facility owner. The bond amount must be based on the estimate cost of decommissioning and salvage value, estimated costs to the DEP that could arise from having to manage and maintain the facility in case the owner goes bankrupt or abandons the facility until full bond liquidation goes into effect, and estimated costs to the DEP for the need to bring personal and equipment to the facility for the purpose of performing site restoration and decommissioning work in case of facility abandonment by the owner, among other required cost information stipulated by the DEP.



Wyoming

**Statewide/Local
Hybrid**
Policy Model

#44

SEIA State Solar
Capacity Ranking
-3 compared to Q4 2024

334 MW

Total Installed Solar
Capacity

LAW: Wyoming Statutes Annotated 18-5-501¹⁰⁶, 18-5-503¹⁰⁷, 35-12-102¹⁰⁸, 35-12-105¹⁰⁹

DECOMMISSIONING RULES

State statute requires the submittal of a waste management plan to the state's board of county commissioners by the owner or developer of the facility in order to obtain permitting, with the waste management plan requiring a proposed disposal program for the eventual decommissioning of said facility. In order to obtain a permit, a facility must also provide a site and facility reclamation and decommissioning plan that includes the planned facility life and the various ways that the site and facility will be restored and decommissioned properly. The restoration and decommissioning plan must be updated every five years until the site has been completely restored and the facility deconstructed. The plan must comply with the state's Industrial Siting Council's requirements, which preempt local government rules regarding decommissioning and reclamation for certain facilities, including solar facilities with a capacity of more than 30 MW (including any facility expansions). The plan requirements also impact commercial solar facilities with a rated power capacity of more than 500 kW, which includes all land parcels that the project owner has the rights to construct a facility, including land used for battery storage. However, the provisions regarding a facility between 500 kW and 30 MW do not preempt local government regulations.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Not required.

¹⁰⁶ [Wyoming Statutes Annotated 18-5-501](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Wyoming Statutes Annotated 18-5-503](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Wyoming Statutes Annotated 35-12-102](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Wyoming Statutes Annotated 35-12-105](#)

Emerging Trends & Best Practices in Decommissioning

Several trends emerge after examining recent legislative changes and current decommissioning requirements. It is clear that more states are gradually administering decommissioning rules, some starting the rule process by initially studying solar decommissioning before introducing legislation (as in the case of the Carolinas^{110,111}).

In 2025, at least 27 states had legislative actions related to the decommissioning and recycling of solar and battery storage, with the Northeast and Southeast showing the most activity and significant developments also occurring in the Western region. This year, Arkansas and Nevada enacted new statewide regulations for solar decommissioning, while several other states expanded requirements for battery storage systems, such as Louisiana, South Dakota, and Texas. A number of states also updated existing regulations to clarify the state's regulations over decommissioning of solar projects, including Montana and Oklahoma.

Moreover, following 2024 legislation directing the Colorado Energy Office to study decommissioning for commercial solar projects over 5 MW, the Office released a final study in October 2025 detailing stakeholder recommendations for a statewide decommissioning framework, including standardized requirements, later-in-lifecycle financial assurance, and bond structures that account for salvage value.¹¹²

Nationwide Adoption of Decommissioning Policies

Across the country, 35 states have some variation of a statewide solar decommissioning policy. Generally, rules require the decommissioning process for solar projects to begin and be completed within one to two years of the facility ceasing commercial operations or being abandoned. Many rules explicitly require project owners to restore the site to its pre-construction state. Most statewide policies include some sort of provision requiring financial assurance with several options, usually a bond, insurance, or guarantee. Decommissioning rules typically apply to large-scale solar facilities, and a number of states, including Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, and Michigan, specifically mandate decommissioning plans and assurance for solar facilities built on agricultural or forest lands. While most states stipulate a capacity-based threshold for following decommissioning requirements, states like Maine and South Carolina specify acreage as a determining factor for projects that must follow such requirements.

At present, state policies explicitly mention greenfield-type development for these requirements. Brownfields, landfills, and recovered areas are not explicitly mentioned when reviewing state decommissioning policies; the application of rules to these site types is uncertain. Furthermore, due to the relative prevalence of existing and forthcoming greenfield solar projects, the policy focus for regulators and policymakers is oftentimes directed to such projects, rather than to brownfields and reclaimed minefield projects, amongst others.

¹¹⁰ [Final Report on the Activities Conducted to Establish a Regulatory Program for the Management and Decommissioning of Renewable Energy Equipment \(January 1, 2021\)](#)

¹¹¹ [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Solar Panel Stakeholder Group](#)

¹¹² Colorado Energy Office. (2025). Clean energy & transmission siting final report.pdf. Statewide Study on Clean Energy and Transmission Siting. <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/siting-study>

Emerging Trends & Best Practices in Decommissioning

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as of December 2024, there were about 536 solar projects on brownfields and reclaimed mine lands in the United States, an increase of more than 40 projects compared to 2023.

Additionally, several states (e.g. Vermont, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Ohio, etc.) do not allow the salvage value of assets to be included and/or subtracted from decommissioning cost estimates. As for the inclusion of co-located energy and/or battery storage systems, a plurality of states include such systems under their definition of a solar power facility, while some may refer to storage passively in the context of supporting or ancillary equipment. Some states distinguish battery storage from solar decommissioning requirements, either implicitly or explicitly. For example, Maine has regulations for both co-located and standalone battery storage systems, while Maryland sets decommissioning requirements for certain front-of-the-meter battery storage systems.

As solar power continues to grow, particularly at the utility-scale, states and localities can set processes and expectations for project developers/owners to follow regarding how to treat their facilities at the end of their functional life. Restoration of lands used for solar, especially on productive agricultural lands, is a cross-cutting concern. Developing clear rules for how to treat a site or allowing negotiated restoration with localities and landowners can often create the best results.

Financial Assurance

Financial assurance is seen as a key tool in making sure that decommissioning plans are implemented. A phased approach, where percentages of the financial assurance for estimated decommissioning cost are due at different periods over the first five to 10 years of a project's operation, can be less onerous to facility owners while still offering security to landowners for restoration – as mandated in Michigan and Indiana already. Additionally, periodic revisits over the functional life of projects can ensure that financial security remains sufficient until the decommissioning process begins.

States could also require a certain percentage of assurance to be submitted prior to project construction so that it may specifically be used for decommissioning in case of project abandonment prior to operations, much like in North Dakota, to provide additional protection for affected stakeholders in such rare circumstances. Even allowing state and local oversight authorities/agencies to remove and sell abandoned project assets, may provide an incentive to lessen the likelihood of abandonment; as well as providing clear conditions for owners that wish to transfer project ownership, and thus decommissioning responsibilities, to another authorized party, in response to contractual difficulties.

Emerging Trends & Best Practices in Decommissioning

Stakeholder Engagement and Education

To reduce the possible pushback and animosity towards future solar projects, regularly requiring solar project developers/owners to notify nearby communities of any decommissioning policies and processes that they are required to follow may help build critical and transparent communication channels between communities, local governments, landowners, and project developers/owners early in the process before decommissioning takes place. Similarly to what is provided in Rhode Island, responsible state agencies and authorities may also consider providing technical assistance to local governments and project developers/owners going through the planning and execution phases of decommissioning.

Lastly, providing accessible educational resources, and connecting stakeholders to various programs, including R-STEP, may help bridge silos and close the information gap that may be present throughout the solar project development process.

Conclusion

Overall, the continued expansion of solar and storage deployment has prompted states to take a more proactive approach to decommissioning policy, in advance of actual removal for most existing projects. Significant progress has been made through broader adoption of statewide requirements, as the majority of the nation now has some sort of minimum requirement for decommissioning and financial assurance. As policies continue to evolve, decommissioning best practices that emphasize stakeholder engagement, land restoration, long-term accountability and transparency, as well as material recycling will be critical to ensuring the sustainable growth of the solar and storage industry.