



Solar PV Supply-chain Transparency – Human Rights

The Smart Energy Council joins other solar international stakeholders to condemn use of forced labour in all industries wherever such human rights abuses are found.

The Australian solar industry has been working with the Global Solar Council and other peak solar industry bodies to increase supply-chain transparency. Concerns have emerged in recent weeks around allegations of forced labour in the production of feed stock materials such as polysilicon, which is used in the manufacture of solar PV panels.

Solar energy companies and industry representative bodies have expressed their opposition to any human rights abuses taking place anywhere in the global solar energy supply chain.

The Smart Energy Council supports the work being done to develop an industry-led traceability protocol to help to ensure our supply chain is free of human rights abuses. Such a protocol would bring high levels of transparency and sustainability throughout the value chain.

International associations including the Global Solar Council, SolarPower Europe, Solar Energy UK, and the Solar Energy Industries Association in the U.S are cooperating on improving global supply chain transparency. The Smart Energy Council is a Member of the Global Solar Council.

John Grimes, Chief Executive, Smart Energy Council said:

“This is a matter that all solar energy industry members are treating with the utmost seriousness. We expect our industry to follow manufacturing practices which are in line with internationally recognised standards.

Making global supply chains transparent and sustainable is complex and challenging for all industries. We will continue to work with international trade bodies on an industry-led traceability protocol to ensure the global solar energy supply chain is free of human rights abuses.”