## ALTERNATIVES FOR TREATING PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES AFTER THEIR USEFUL LIFE

nco Interamericano



## WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN CHILE?

FINANCED BY

Until March 2020, more than 12 millon photovoltaic modules have been installed, representing 3 [GW] of installed power conected to the electrical network.

They are mainly concentrated in three technologies: Monocrystalline, Polycrystalline and Thin Layer (CdTe).







MONOCRISTALLINE

POLYCRYSTALLINE

THIN LAYER (CdTe)

#### DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO TYPE OF PROJECT



# WHICH ARE THE INSTALLATIONS IN CHILE?

The study showed that 74% of the photovoltaic modules installed are Polycrystalline, 25% correspond to the Thin Layer type (CdTe) and the Monocrystalline type reaches 1%.

They are mostly reflected in large-scale projects and in fewer than Netbiling proyjects.

## AS OF MARCH 2020, CHILE HAS INSTALLED AROUND 12,508,000 PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES

#### COMPOSITION AND MATERIALS OF CRYSTALLINE PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES

#### PROJECTIONS OF THE NUMBER OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES IN CHILE IN 2050

MILLIONS

## 78% GLASS 11% ALUMINUM 8% POLYMERS

#### **2% SILICON**

#### **1% OTHERS**

According to the technology existing in Chile today, about 77% of the weight of the photovoltaic module could be recyled



Projection according to PELP; according to the development of technology and the power of each module

### PROJECTION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES THAT REACH TO THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIFE







## ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES AFTER THEIR USEFUL LIFE

### MAIN IMPACTS OF PV MODULE WASTE

- -Lead Filtration
- -Cadmium Filtration
- -Loss of conventional resources (glass
- and aluminium)
- -Rare metals loss

#### TOTAL GENERATION BY TYPE OF PV MODULE WASTE MATERIALS IN CHILE IN 2050

![](_page_1_Figure_10.jpeg)

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS IN CHILE FOR THE TREATMENT OF PV MODULES

**DELAMINATION** MECHANICAL CHEMICAL THERMAL OPTICAL SEPARATION: MECHANICAL CHEMICAL

MATERIAL PURIFICATION: CHEMICAL THERMAL

## DEFINED USEFUL LIFE TYPES FOR PV MODULES

Performance warranty according to manufactures: 25 years

Arround 50% of the projects have declared a useful life greater than 30 years

Financial useful life: Profitability evaluated in a horizon of 20 to 25 years

PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF PV MODULES TO CHILE

**STORAGE** 

It's proposed that the owners of large plants can be in charge of the delivery of PV panels to recycling centers

#### TRANSPORT

Guarantee given by the manufactures and distributors of PV panels a system of national coverage for their extraction Establish the maximum useful life of the photovoltaic panels.

Diagnosis of the potential of reuse that a PV module will have

#### TREATMENT

The treatment will depend on the recyclability index of each component of PV modules for an intensive recycling Hight Value Recycling (HVR) or a basic recycling Low Value Recycling (LVR)

### **CONCLUSIONS AND BENEFITS**

An economic benefit is expected for Chile that could reach from 100,000 to 750,000 UF and job creation more than 1,000 jobs of depending on the type of recycling that is done. following Chile has the challenges to approach the of photovoltaic treatment modules

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