

Press Release – 13 July 2026

PV CYCLE Belgium reports record solar panel collection volumes in 2025

Collection volumes continue to grow following a record-breaking 2024, with 1,785 tonnes of end-of-life photovoltaic (PV) panels recycled

Brussels, Belgium – **PV CYCLE Belgium has announced that it collected 1,785 tonnes of end-of-life photovoltaic (PV) panels in 2025**, according to its newly published 2025 Annual Report. Following the exceptional growth recorded in 2024, when collection volumes more than doubled, the organisation achieved **a further increase of almost 20% year on year**, confirming the continued expansion of Belgium's end-of-life PV waste stream.

The figures reflect a long-term structural trend. As **the first generation of photovoltaic installations gradually reaches the end of its operational life** and an increasing number of systems are being upgraded with newer, more efficient technologies, **the responsible collection and recycling of end-of-life PV panels has become an increasingly important challenge** for Belgium's photovoltaic sector.

"We are no longer dealing with a temporary phenomenon, but with a long-term structural trend," said Johan Goossens, Country Manager of PV CYCLE Belgium. "Collection volumes will continue to grow in the years ahead. Our responsibility is to ensure that every discarded panel enters the appropriate collection and recycling pathway, allowing valuable raw materials to remain in circulation."

A nationwide collection network ready for continued growth

In 2025, PV CYCLE Belgium operated a nationwide network of **102 collection points**, comprising **62 in Flanders, 38 in Wallonia and 2 in the Brussels-Capital Region**. These facilities enable installers, businesses and private owners to dispose of smaller quantities of end-of-life PV panels free of charge.

For larger volumes, PV CYCLE Belgium organises dedicated on-site collections directly from customer premises. Today, this service accounts for approximately 70% of all collected volumes, while the remaining **30%** are delivered through the permanent collection network.

Flanders continues to account for the largest share of collected panels, representing **69.4%** of total volumes. However, collection activity is also increasing steadily in Wallonia and Brussels, demonstrating that end-of-life PV panel management is now firmly established across the whole of Belgium.

2026: PV CYCLE Belgium celebrates its 10th anniversary

The publication of the 2025 Annual Report coincides with a significant milestone for the organisation. In 2026, PV CYCLE Belgium celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Established in 2016 to implement Belgium's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for photovoltaic panels, PV CYCLE Belgium has grown over the past decade into the country's leading Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) for end-of-life PV panels.

This steady development is also reflected in the number of participating companies, which has increased from **92 members in 2016 to 435 affiliated producers in 2025**. Today, the organisation plays a central role in ensuring that Belgium's rapidly expanding solar market is supported by an efficient, reliable and future-proof collection and recycling system.

Supporting the energy transition through circularity

All panels collected by PV CYCLE Belgium are treated by specialised recycling partners to maximise material recovery while ensuring the highest environmental standards throughout the recycling process. Today, more than 85% of the materials contained in a photovoltaic panel can already be recovered, including glass, aluminium and several valuable metals. Ongoing technological advances are expected to further improve recovery rates in the years ahead. For PV CYCLE Belgium, however, the challenge extends beyond recycling alone. The organisation is committed to ensuring that the energy transition also becomes a truly circular transition.

"Solar panels generate renewable electricity for decades, but their value does not end when they reach the end of their service life," said Johan Goossens. "Through effective collection and high-quality recycling, valuable raw materials can be recovered and returned to the economy, helping to support Europe's circular transition. At the same time, recycling is only one part of the solution. Whenever technically and economically feasible, repair and reuse should also be encouraged. Combining these approaches is essential to building a truly circular photovoltaic sector."

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About PV CYCLE Belgium - PV CYCLE Belgium is the Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) responsible for the collection and recycling of end-of-life photovoltaic panels placed on the Belgian market. Acting on behalf of its participating producers, the organisation implements Belgium's **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** obligations in close cooperation with the country's three regional authorities. Operating under a model comparable to Recupel for electrical and electronic equipment and Bebat for batteries, PV CYCLE Belgium guarantees the **free collection and environmentally sound recycling** of photovoltaic panels at the end of their service life.

The system is financed through an environmental contribution of **€1.50 per panel**, paid by producers and passed on through the supply chain to the end customer. This collective approach ensures that photovoltaic panels remain part of a circular economy long after they have completed their operational lifetime.