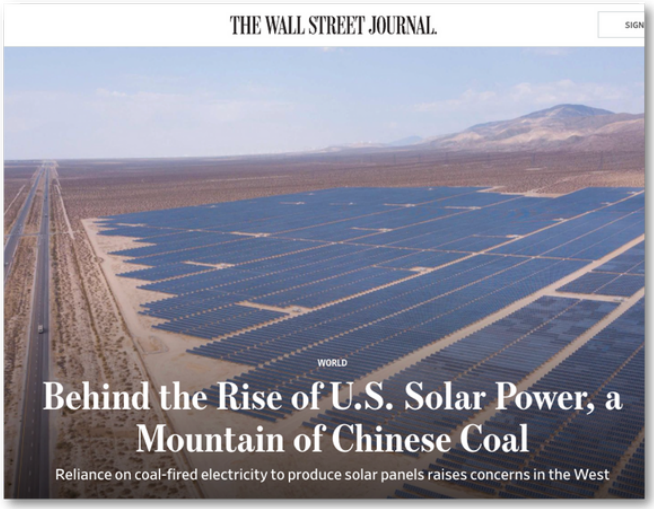
# Building a sustainable solar supply chain

## The current supply chain is failing us

- Solar manufacturing is over concentrated in China, with double the CO2 emissions and serious labor concerns
- Tariff wars and the Commerce Dept. investigation threaten supply
- The CBP WRO and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act will further constrain imports




**Solar industry: We're in 'most serious crisis' in history**

By David Iaconangelo | 04/06/2022 07:21 AM EDT

SHINE BLOCKERS

**Supply chain chaos threatens the growth of solar energy**

The New York Times

*Chinese Solar Companies Tied to Use of Forced Labor*

A new report shows some of the world's biggest solar companies work with the Chinese government to absorb workers from Xinjiang, programs that are often seen as a red flag for forced labor.

## A better solar supply chain is emerging

**75GW**

low-carbon polysilicon production outside of China

Wafers, cells, modules, inverters, racking, and trackers expanding in low-carbon economies

Momentum is building towards a distributed, sustainable supply chain

Buyers can accelerate the development of a better supply chain through their purchasing power. Tools like ecolabels enable buyers to specify sustainable solar, sending a market signal that will motivate more rapid manufacturing expansion in the US, EU and elsewhere.

# Global Electronics Council

**Type I ecolabel**

- Based on transparent life cycle criteria; developed by independent experts; regularly recertified.
- Verified by independent third parties; allows buyers to specify sustainable products.
- Simplifies sustainable purchasing.

GLOBAL ELECTRONICS COUNCIL

*Sustainability for a Connected Future*

Started as a nonprofit electronics certification program with EPEAT ecolabel in 2006.

Used in private and public sustainable purchasing in 43 countries ($2.2 billion in 2020 alone).

Participating manufacturers include Apple, Dell, HP, Google, Microsoft, First Solar, and more.

Type I ecolabel per ISO 14024.

**1.5** billion sustainable products purchased through GEC ecolabels

**220** million metric ton reduction in greenhouse gases

**398** million energy savings in megawatt hours

# EPEAT PV ecolabel

EPEAT is a multi-attribute standard that incorporates:

- sustainable use of energy, water and other resources,
- hazardous substances use
- corporate ESG performance.

**Life-cycle based low carbon criteria reflecting emissions along the entire solar supply chain are being finalized for inclusion in the EPEAT PV ecolabel for fall 2022.**

*The EPEAT PV ecolabel can be used to simplify the specification of sustainably manufactured solar models.*