#3 Renewable Energy Equipment Subcommittee Meeting #3 Summary - Renewable Energy Equipment September 2, 2021 9AM-12PM

Subcommittee meeting #3 of the Renewable Energy Equipment Subcommittee (#3-REE) was convened virtually via Zoom on September 2, 2021 from 9AM-11 AM, CST. Attendance for #3-REE is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. #3-REE Subcommittee Membership and Attendance

Name	Company	Attended 9/2/21
Jeff Maxted	Alliant Energy	Present
Jenny Coughlin	MidAmerican Energy Company	Present
Chaz Allen	Iowa Utility Association	Present
Joshua Syhlman	TPI Composites	Absent
Rick Hurt	SCISWA	Present
Dan Nickey	Iowa Waste Reduction Center	Present
Shelene Codner	Region XII Council of Governments - IWE	Present
Shelly Peterson	IEDA	Present
Jerry Brown	Collins Aerospace	Absent
Sally Buck	Valmont Industries, Inc., Coatings Division	Absent
Steve Guyer	Iowa Environmental Council	Present
Kenneth Sulma	Iowa Utilities Board	Present
Dustin Miller	American Clean Power Association	Present
Brad Hartkopf	Iowa Association of Business and Industry	Present
Mary Wittry	Carroll County Solid Waste Management	Present
Theresa Stiner	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Laurie Rasmus	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Jeff Fiagle	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Tom Anderson	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Jennifer Wright	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Amie Davidson	DNR Internal SMM Team	Absent
Michelle Leonard	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Christine Collier	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Jeff Phillips	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Karen Luken	Sub-Consultant – EESI*	Present
Dan Litchfield (Guest speaker)	Invenergy	Present
Sam Oswalt		Present
Jeff Danielson	American Clean Power Association	Present
Peder Mewis	Clean Grid Alliance	Present
(402) 916-0047		Present

<sup>\*</sup> Economic Environmental Solutions International

### A. Subcommittee #3 - REE Summary

The meeting began with the project consulting team reviewing the agenda for this meeting (see Attachment A), the overall objectives of the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) — Vision for Iowa project, the process and goals of the project process, and the goals for today's subcommittee meeting. The Stakeholder Meeting #2 schedule and Subcommittee responsibilities were also discussed. The slides presented for this Subcommittee meeting (including those from guest speaker Dan Litchfield) are included in Attachment B.

Subcommittee members asked about this project's process and if there are planned SMM practices already identified for implementation. Furthermore, some subcommittee members expressed concerns that businesses may not want to implement SMM practices.

The project consultant team stated that Phase I of the SMM project involved many stakeholders representing a variety of industries and integrated solid waste management (ISWM) programs and services managers, and concluded that SMM practices would improve Iowa's current approach to material management. The stakeholders that participated in Phase I predominantly concluded that SMM practices should be identified and considered for implementation in Iowa. Phase II of the SMM project is to engage with a broader base of stakeholders to identify and prioritize specific materials for possible SMM practices, and then evaluate potential strategies to implement SMM practices focused on prioritized materials. It was discussed that strategies identified in Phase II of this project would then be considered for potential implementation which is considered Phase III of this project.

The project consultant team and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff reminded subcommittee members that SMM is a long process and priorities and strategies may change over time as additional information is collected and evaluated. Furthermore, the role of Phase II isn't to implement any potential SMM practice. Rather, its role is to identify potential strategies and then work with subcommittee and stakeholder members in evaluating and prioritizing potential strategies. Part of this process also includes developing a better understanding of the waste management challenges we may have today and may have in the future so that we can identify better management practices.

The project consultant team introduced guest speaker Dan Litchfield with Invenergy. Dan provided a summary on Invenergy, their involvement in renewable energy projects, the benefits of renewable energy, the expected market and infrastructure growth in Iowa, and discussed the end of life management of solar energy equipment.

Dan indicated that lowa has large queue of potential solar projects that are expected to generated 3 gigawatts (GW) of power and have approximately 415 megawatts (MW) of storage potential. Utilities are working with manufacturers and local municipalities to develop appropriate use and decommissioning plans for this infrastructure to minimize negative community and environmental impacts associated with these projects.

Dan stated that renewable energy equipment and utilities (large or small) would prefer incentives that support innovation rather than regulations that would likely increase costs for consumers. There are several activities already underway (i.e., University research, business collaboration, etc.) that can help provide innovative and market based solutions for improved end of life management solutions. With the expected growth in the solar energy market and the significant increase in number of panels and associated energy storage systems (i.e., Lithium-ion batteries), there is an economies of scale

established which increases demand for these raw materials and also then supports the demand for businesses that can successfully recycle these materials for reuse. There are already several businesses within the United States that provide decommissioning and recycling services associated with the solar energy market. It is anticipated that more companies will join the market as demand continues to increase.

Dan also mentioned growing market for repurposing old solar panel systems for use in third-world countries. Decommissioned solar panels in the United States primarily still have decent energy production capabilities, just less so than the panels that are likely replacing them. Rather than recycling these resources, there is an opportunity to connect with other nations that need power in locations that may not have reliable electrical grid services.

Finally, Dan stressed that we need to create more renewable energy and that end-of-life management is a short-term barrier that we can solve.

The project consultant team then presented lowa solar energy market statistics. This data is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 below.

State Solar Spotlight lowa **Key Figures Total Solar Installed National Ranking** Solar Jobs<sup>1</sup> **Growth Projection** 342.34 MW over the 35th 869 287.83 MW next 5 years 162.25 MW in 2020 Ranks 22nd in 2020 Ranks 39th in 2019 Ranks 42nd Percentage of state's Price decline over the electricity from solar: ast five years: 36,695 45% homes There are 50 solar companies operating in Iowa.3 Installers/ **Manufacturers Others Developers** The solar industry has invested \$435.28 million in Iowa, including \$169.34 million in 2020

Figure 1 - Iowa Solar Spotlight

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

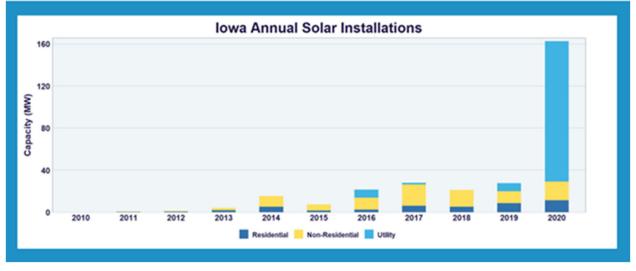


Figure 2 – Iowa Annual Solar Installations

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

Figure 2 shows the energy production capacity in Iowa as well as the type of installations that have occurred (i.e., residential, non-residential, and utility) over the past 10-years. Figure 2 indicates a significant increase in energy production capacity as well as installations by utilities between 2019 and 2020.

The project consultant team presented information on the recycling and reuse of solar panels. For silicon-based solar panels, the recycling process involves separating the glass and aluminum. Approximately 95 percent of the glass and 100 percent of the metals are reused. Any remaining materials are heated to evaporate the plastics. Remaining silicon is then recycled. For thin-based solar panels, the recycling process typically involves shredding the panels and then using chemicals to remove the film. Approximately 90 percent of the glass is reused and 95 percent of the semiconductor materials are reused. Remaining metals are then separated and processed.

The project consultant team presented an example legislative strategy recently implemented by the state of Washington to promote the local renewable energy industry through modifying tax incentives. The legislation required solar panel manufactures to establish free solar panel recycling services for residential consumers. The legislation was adopted in 2017 and the implementation date has been extended to 2025.

The project consultant team then identified the following end of life management models for renewable energy equipment:

- Decommissioning Plans
- Product Stewardship

- Rate-Payer Funded
- Permittee Funded

The project consultant lead the Subcommittee members through a discussion covering what can be done in lowa to ensure sufficient funding for end of life material management and what topics should this Subcommittee focus on over the next one to three years. The following is a summary of the discussion for each of these questions.

### What can be done in Iowa to ensure sufficient funding for end-of-life management?

- Large utilities are managing the end of life for renewable energy equipment but perhaps good governance is also important to level the playing field and include all utilities (with different strategies based on some criteria).
- Looking at large utility scale projects, most of them already have decommissioning plans which address some end of life. However, they don't address issues during the life of the project (i.e., re-powering blades or panels). Perhaps ordinances could be established that require funds to be set aside to manage these "during life-use" issues.
- It is important to look at any potential solutions that are on the macro- and micro-scale. From the state and county side the ordinances/regulations need to be consistent across the board. Especially, if we are looking at incentives.
- Utility scale projects are different than commercial or residential projects. We are confident that third-party companies will pop up to manage the end of life materials especially with the massive amounts of materials that will be generated.
- What can the State of Iowa do to facilitate recycling companies locating in the State?
- There are a lot of good things happening in the management of wind turbines. We are going to
  continue to do what is best for all of our customers. We would want to make sure that any
  policies that are developed over time are equitable.
- If a company is putting in infrastructure, they could have a financial assurance mechanism to manage these materials. However, for homeowners perhaps some incentives could be established as financial assurance isn't likely applicable in their case. From a landfill perspective, it is very cheap to manage these materials for disposal.
- The wind turbine projects are doing a good job of managing the wastes but the blades are a challenge. End markets should be established to help encourage reuse and recycling of these materials.
- Technology is advancing and some of the waste we have or will be producing will not be there in the future. On residential scale, there are tax incentives for using some of these technologies.
   Perhaps this could be extended to those that recycle these materials.

- Concerning reuse of solar panels, we could focus on getting these materials to developing
  countries (non-profits, missions, etc.). But we need to make sure there is an end of life process
  and solution in the countries that are receiving these panels.
- More private industry needs to be represented in this group. Large manufacturers that may
  want to use renewable energy at their facilities should be invited to participate.
- The Iowa Economic Development Authority's State Energy Center is providing resources to support research in managing end of life for wind turbines. Perhaps this research could be presented during the next Subcommittee meeting.
- If we are wanting to connect with developing nations to discuss opportunities to provide them solar panels for reuse, perhaps we can connect with the president of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) to help us make those connections.
- We could consider establishing solar panel take back programs similar to what we have for battery take back programs.
- Financial assurance requirements for large scale projects to ensure proper decommissioning is a good idea.
- We should invite individuals representing municipally owned and cooperative energy utilities to participate in this group. We should also invite manufacturers of wind turbines, solar panels, and energy storage equipment to this group.
- Bring in folks that may potentially be affected by policies.
- We need to make sure we are reflecting the fact that a majority of these materials are not hazardous and inert and that the volume of the material is able to be managed.
- We are excited about our wind turbine recycling opportunities. Whatever the outcome of this group is, we want to make sure it is fair and equitable to all of our customers.

### Is there anything in the next one to three years that we should be focusing on?

- Encourage policies that foster research for technologies to solve some of the end of life material management challenges.
- We need to encourage, to the extent that we can, solutions that drive businesses and solutions to move into lowa.
- Consider reestablishing the renewable energy tax credit. This could serve as a model for Iowa.
- Public education is important to help promote the benefits of renewable energy. There may be
  a negative connotation with the renewable energy infrastructure, but we need to be sure the
  public understands all of the benefits that renewable energy solutions provide.

### B. Research Request List

There were no topics identified for further research. However, the following individuals or organizations were identified as those to consider inviting to participate in future Subcommittee Meetings:

- John Deere;
- Pella Windows;
- Large manufacturers that may want to use renewable energy at their facilities;
- Municipal and cooperative Utility representatives; and
- Manufacturers of windmill turbines, solar panels, and battery storage systems.

### **Other Notes**

Other items of note from the #3-REE meeting are as follows:

Second Stakeholder Meeting will be held on September 30, 2021. Subcommittee members in addition to other interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend.

### Attachments:

Attachment A: Agenda

Attachment B: PowerPoint Presentations

# Attachment A Agenda



# Subcommittee Meeting #3 - Renewable Energy Equipment

September 2, 2021

9:00AM - 12:00AM (CST)

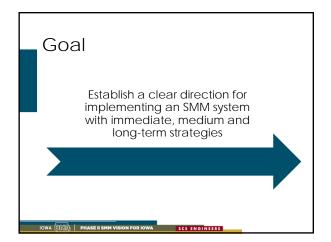
## **Virtual Meeting**

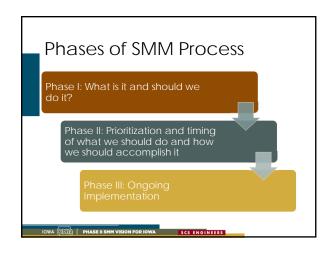
- 1. Recap SMM Goal, Process, and Schedule
- 2. Additional Data
- 3. Fundamental Questions
- 4. State of Washington Solar EPR
- 5. Reusing Solar Panels
- 6. Break
- 7. Revisit Minnesota Model
- 8. Potential Strategies
- 9. Next Steps
  - a. Stakeholder Meeting#2 (September 30, 2021)
  - b. Future meetings dates and logistics

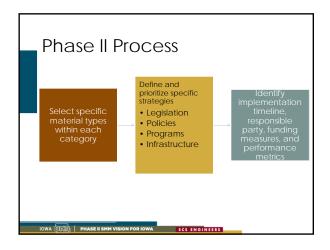
# Attachment B **PowerPoint Presentations**

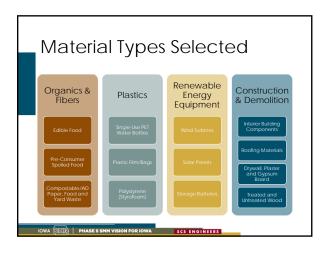






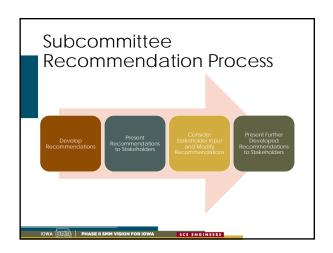


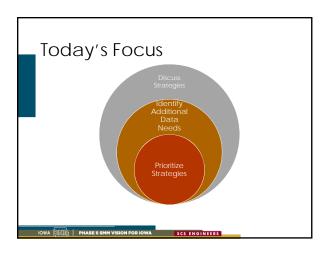






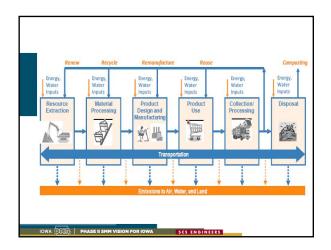




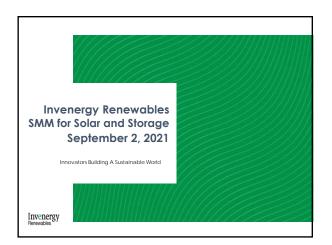


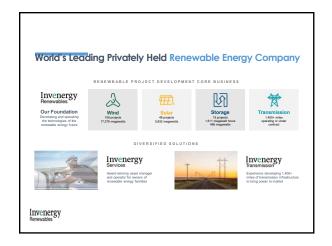






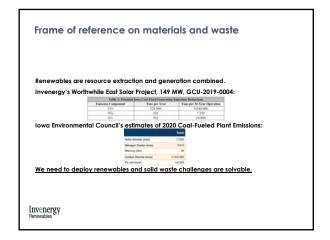




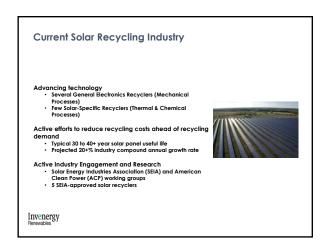


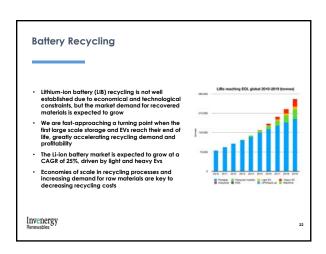
Iowa County, WI
300 MW in two phases
Single axis trackers mounted to steel Hpiles
Approx 900,000 bifacial solar modules
"Decommissioning cost is calculated as
the sum of the cost of disassembly,
removal and disposal of the PV modules
and bolance of system, as may be offset
by the gains from the salvage value of
materials."
Point: strong incentive to maximize salvage
value.







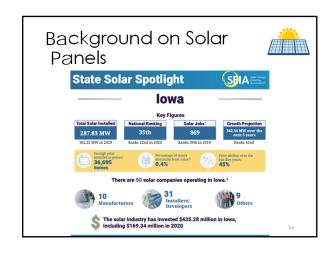


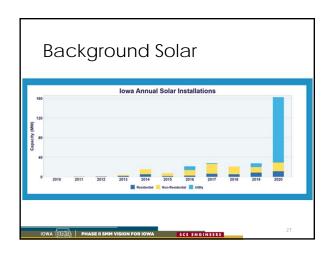


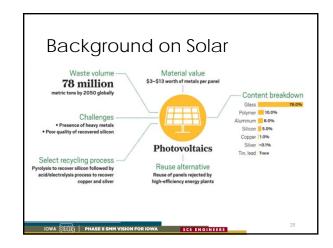
# Perovide a certification of recycling Decommissioning an Energy Storage System - End of life is typically after 7300 cycles (e.g. 345 per year for 20 years) Decommissioning services are provided by multiple companies Evaluate the condition of the batteries Determine if they can be reused responsibly If not, they are recycled in a hydrometallurgical process Provide a certification of recycling











# Solar Reuse and Recycling

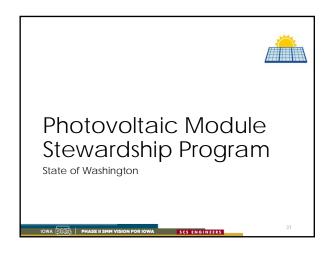
- The silicon-based PV panels (the most common of the two panels) are first disassembled, and the glass and aluminum are separated
- 95% of the glass and 100% of the metal are reused
- The remaining materials are heated to 930 degrees which causes the plastic to evaporate
- The remaining silicon is recycled

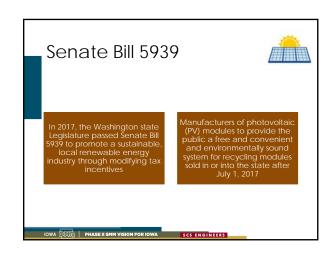


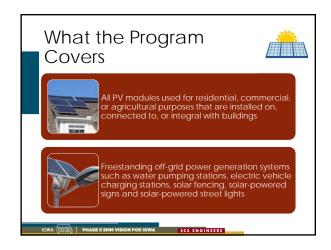
# Solar Reuse and Recycling

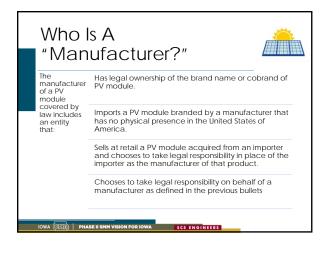
- Thin film-based PV panels are shredded into roughly 5mm pieces and separated to remove the film using peroxide and acid.
- Through the processes of removing interlayer materials and rinsing glass, nearly 90% of the glass is reused.
- 95% of the semiconductor material is reused via a precipitation and dewatering process.
  The remaining metals are then separated and processed.



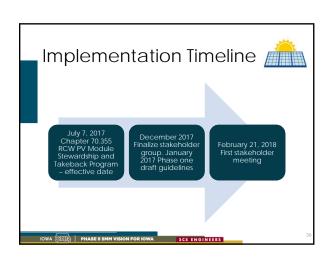


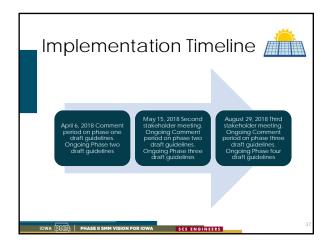


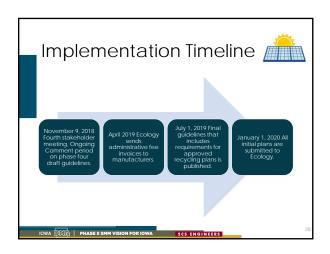


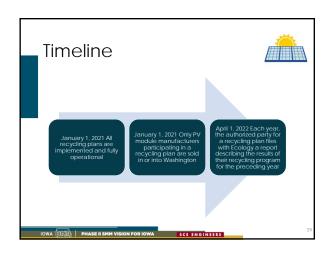


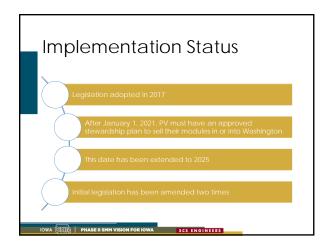




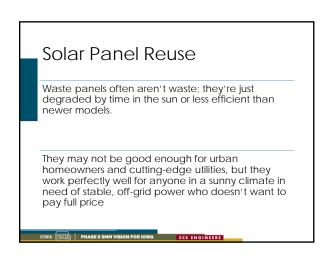


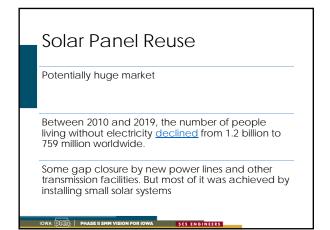


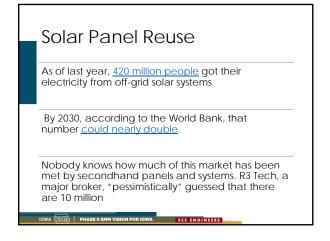








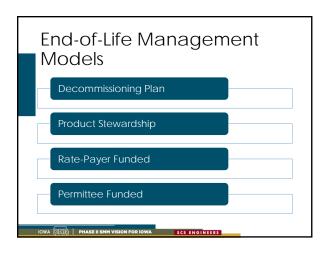




# Wind Energy in Iowa

- 5,590 total wind turbines that are producing over 10,951 megawatts (MW) of electricity.
  - 16,670 individual wind turbine blades





Discussion

What can be done in lowa to ensure sufficient funds for end of life management?

How can the state incentivize recycling and encourage rural/developing reuse?

Different strategies for utility-scale, muni/coop, homeowner?

Should additional stakeholders be invited?



