

DTSC PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

Public Webinar: Management of Waste Photovoltaic Modules as Universal Waste in California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will hold a public webinar on December 17, 2020, to present information on the recently approved regulation to manage waste photovoltaic modules (PV modules), commonly known as solar panels, as universal waste under California's Universal Waste Program.

This webinar is intended to familiarize people with the requirements of the new regulation for managing PV modules as universal waste under California's Universal Waste Program.

The meeting agenda and final regulatory text will be available on the PV module – universal waste web page at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/photovoltaic-modules-pv-modules-universal-waste-management-regulations/>

Instructions for Remote Public Participation:

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (Executive Orders [N-29-20](#) and [N-33-20](#)), there will be no physical public access location. Stakeholders can participate remotely via live Zoom or join the meeting by phone. If you cannot attend the webinar, it will be recorded and posted on the [PV module – universal waste webpage](#). The webinar will be held on the following date and time:

Date: December 17, 2020
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (PDT)

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IPJ2OQFmS3qHqNDWu_0PbQ

Background

DTSC's new solar panel regulation, allowing them to be managed under California's universal waste program, will be effective starting January 1, 2021. The new regulation, established under Senate Bill 489, is designed to provide a less restrictive and streamlined alternative for managing hazardous solar panels under universal waste management standards instead of full hazardous waste regulations.

Under the new regulation, any entity that generates solar panel waste will now have an option to manage them as universal waste without needing to test them for the hazardous waste characteristic of toxicity. Both federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and California non-RCRA hazardous waste solar panels may be managed as universal waste in California. The universal waste

designation only applies to solar waste in California. The waste must comply with respective local, state, and federal regulations once the waste is transported outside California.

The new regulation applies to handling, collection, accumulation, and transportation aspects of solar panels waste management and allows self-authorization for universal waste handlers to conduct certain treatment activities on solar panels. Once solar panels that are managed as universal waste are discarded, the waste becomes subject to all hazardous waste regulations, and the waste then must be disposed of as hazardous waste under full hazardous waste standards.

What safety measures will be taken to protect the health of those nearby:

The webinar will be held virtually.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)