

# **The Solar Stewardship Initiative And Corporate Procurement strategies**

Sustainable Solar Europe 2025



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INITIATIVE





# Opening words

By **Rachel Owens**, CEO,  
Solar Stewardship Initiative



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# The SSI | BACKGROUND

## WHAT IS THE SSI?

The SSI is a **solar-specific** value chain **assurance programme** co-founded by a broad coalition of industry stakeholders, to build a more sustainable, responsible solar future.

## WHY THE SSI?

As solar energy becomes central to the global clean energy transition, the sector faces growing scrutiny over issues like labour and human rights, traceability in sourcing materials and environmental impacts in manufacturing and raw material extraction.



### Compliance

- Retain **market access** and meet global and local **legislative requirements** (e.g., EU CSDDD, CSRD, US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act).
- Access SSI **standards and tools** to align with ESG and traceability expectations.

### Reputation

- Meet growing demand for **verified sustainable products**
- Drive **innovation** in sustainable practices and stay ahead of competitors.
- Membership of the SSI demonstrates **commitment to sustainability and transparency** in the solar value chain.

### Collaboration

- **Engage** with key industry stakeholders
- **Participate** in shaping industry standards and sustainability goals.



# The SSI | The Standards

## 1 ESG STANDARD

- Designed to evaluate a manufacturing site's performance in three key areas:
  - **Governance and Business Ethics**
  - **Environment**
  - **Human and labour rights**
- This Standard can certify a 'link' – i.e. a production site – in the solar supply chain
- 6 sites certified **Silver** so far. These sites, plus those currently in the certification pipeline represent **100 GW** annual module production capacity

**GOLD:** No major or minor non-conformances (NCs)

**SILVER:** No major NCs, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan

**BRONZE:** No major NCs, 10 or less minors. Improvement plan

## 2 SUPPLY CHAIN TRACEABILITY STANDARD

- Published December 2024
- First certifications – late 2025
- This Standard is the first step to show precisely where the materials used at each link in the supply chain come from and how they can be traced.
- Covers the entire silicon value chain, from quartzite mining to photovoltaic module production.

**GOLD:** No major or minor non-conformances (NCs). Traceability to quartzite.

**SILVER:** No major NCs, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to MGS.

**BRONZE:** No major NCs, 10 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to polysilicon.



Click to view  
SSI **certified**  
sites



# GOVERNANCE | The SSI Board



Giulia Guidi



Luis Gómez-Chavarría



Michael Koebele



Stephan Singer



Susannah Wood



Michiel van Schalkwijk



Pia Alina Lange



Andrea Weiner



Maté Heisz



Gemma Grimes



Guido Agostinelli



Mehmet Bulut



Malin Oud



Haley St Dennis



# The SSI | MEMBERS

## MANUFACTURER MEMBERS



## BUYER MEMBERS



## ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



SSI  
manufacturer  
members  
represent  
more than

60%

of global manufacturing cap

# OPENING WORDS | the SSI in action



Global, solar specific standards developed and implemented: ESG (2023) and Supply Chain Traceability (2024), following public consultation, pilots and ISEAL best practice.



Standards guidance documents published: ESG (May 2025) and Supply Chain Traceability (October 2025).



Standard Setting and Review Procedure published (Oct 2025), following ISEAL best practices.



Sites were awarded ESG Standard certifications.



12 sites  
awarded  
Silver



2 sites  
awarded  
Bronze

# OPENING WORDS | Buyer's Guide



- Maps the **SSI ESG & Traceability Standards**, the **Assurance process**, and **certification outputs** directly onto each step of the **OECD Due Diligence Guidance**.



- Translates the SSI system into **clear, step-by-step expectations** for buyers and suppliers.
- Tailored to the realities of the solar supply chain — polysilicon to module.



- Offers deep explanations of **what SSI certification covers**, what risks it mitigates, and where buyers may need additional checks.
- Provides clarity on interpreting **assessment results**, certification levels, and traceability documentation.



## ANNEXES

- **Model contractual clauses** embedding SSI requirements.
- **Supplier questionnaires** aligned with SSI Standards and OECD expectations.
- **Checklists** for RfQs, onboarding, and ongoing monitoring.
- **Decision frameworks** to compare suppliers using SSI evidence.



# OPENING WORDS | Buyer's Guide

1

## Embed Responsible Sourcing

- 1.1 Policy Context
- 1.2 The SSI Standards and Other Relevant Standards
- 1.3 Training and Capacity Building
- 1.4 Incorporating Expectations into Engagements with Suppliers
- 1.5 Complaints and Remediation Processes
- 1.6 Documentation and Communication Channels

2

## Identify and Assess Adverse Impacts

- 2.1 Understanding Risks in the Solar PV Supply Chain
- 2.2 Joint Risk Assessment
- 2.3 Sources and Tools to Use in Risk Assessments
- 2.4 Selecting and Accessing Information about SSI Certified Manufacturers
- 2.5 Worker Voice Survey and Grieving Mechanism

3

## Cease, Prevent and Mitigate Adverse Impacts

- 3.1 Taking Appropriate Measures to Address Impacts
- 3.2 Joint Action Plans and Supplier Engagement
- 3.3 Cooperation within the SSI Network
- 3.4 Using the SSI Decision Tree
- 3.5 Promoting Long-term Supplier Partnerships

4

## Track Implementation and Results

- 4.1 Establishing Monitoring Systems
- 4.2 Periodic Supplier Assessments
- 4.3 Tracking Corrective Action Plans (CAPs)
- 4.4 Using The SSI Digital Platform and Tools
- 4.5 Periodic Reviews of Industry Initiatives and Collaborations
- 4.6 Communicating Tracking Results

5

## Communicate About Your Impact

- 5.1 Annual and Sustainability Reporting
- 5.2 Communicating Challenges and Progress
- 5.3 Leveraging the SSI Digital Platform (Launching by End 2025)
- 5.4 Stakeholder-specific communication strategies
- 5.5 Communicating Through Additional Channels
- 5.6 Aligning Communication with Global Standards

6

## Remediation and Remedies

- 6.1 Establishing a Remediation Process
- 6.2 Types of Remedies
- 6.3 Collaborative approaches to remediation
- 6.4 Tracking and Monitoring Remediation Outcomes
- 6.5 Preventive Measures Linked to Remediation
- 6.6 Leveraging SSI Tools for Remediation

# OPENING WORDS | Our session today

Context & risks



**Stephan Singer**

Senior Advisor Global  
Energy Policy at CAN  
International

Supplier  
engagement



**KT Tan**

Chief Technical Officer,  
Viridian

Financing



**Matthew Jordan-Tank**

Director of Sustainable  
Infrastructure Policy &  
Project Preparation,  
EBRD

Procurement  
decision



**Manuella Appiah**

ESG Manager,  
Sunrock





# Context and Risks

By **Stephan Singer**, Senior Advisor  
Global Energy Policy at CAN  
International



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# Stephan Singer



**Senior Advisor Global Energy Policy at Climate Action Network International (CAN International)**

Background:

- Diploma in Soil sciences
- Board member of Solar Stewardship Initiative WindMade, Board Member of Renewable Grid Initiative.
- Previously Director of Global energy Policy and Head of European Climate & Energy Policy at WWF International, project manager at GIZ

# CONTEXT & RISKS | Buyer's Guide

**THE SSI:** Provides **ESG** and **Supply Chain Traceability** Standards covering all major solar risks. Civil society and expert input embedded through SSI's **multi-stakeholder governance**.

## THE BUYER'S GUIDE:

- Explains **risk hotspots** across the value chain.
- Sets out how SSI certification provides **independently verified evidence** on ESG and traceability.
- Helps buyers understand which risks are mitigated through the SSI and where further due diligence is needed.

### What this means for buyers:

You get a clear picture of where risks sit in the value chain, and a reliable framework (SSI certification) to assess whether suppliers are taking appropriate action.





# Supplier Engagement

By **KT Tan**, Chief Technical Officer,  
Viridian



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# Viridian Solar & SSI

Dr KT Tan

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SOLAR \_\_\_\_\_  
EUROPE 2025**



# Who are we? What do we do?



Clearline  
Roof integrated solar thermal panels



Clearline PV  
Roof integrated solar photovoltaic panels



Clearline fusion  
Roof integrated solar photovoltaic panels





United Kingdom, Glasgow  
Development of new homes  
by McTaggart Group  
Installation: Parker Renewables



# Viridian Supply Chain Due Diligence and SSI



# SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT | Buyer's Guide

**THE SSI:** SG Standard requires manufacturers to operate responsible sourcing systems aligned with OECD due diligence.

Traceability Standard ensures segregated material flows, documented chain of custody, and robust evidence retention.

SSI SAQ and audit outputs provide structured, comparable supplier information.

## THE BUYER'S GUIDE:

- Offers practical steps to engage suppliers and interpret SSI evidence.

### What this means for buyers:

Instead of chasing inconsistent documentation, buyers receive standardised, verified information that simplifies engagement and makes supplier expectations clear and realistic.





# Financing

By **Matthew Jordan-Tank**, Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Policy & Project Preparation, EBRD



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# Driving Responsible Solar Development: EBRD's Engagement with the Solar Stewardship Initiative

Matthew Jordan-Tank

Director, Sustainable Infrastructure, Policy and  
Project Preparation

*Sustainable Solar Europe 2025*

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development



# Who we are



## A multilateral development bank

The EBRD is owned by 77 national governments as well as the European Union and the European Investment Bank.

[Find out more](#)



## Enabling a well-run and sustainable private sector

The EBRD operates across three continents to help countries transition to market economies by fostering a sustainable private sector.

It uses a unique model that combines financing, advisory, and policy reform to deliver prosperity.



## Environmental and social sustainability

The EBRD is committed to promoting environmentally and socially-sound sustainable development in the full range of our activities.



## Integrity and compliance

The reputation and the future of the EBRD depend on our integrity. The EBRD is committed to promoting integrity, good corporate governance and high ethical standards in all business operations.

# EBRD's support for industry standards

EBRD strongly supports the key industry-led supply chain standard for solar industry



## Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI)

- EBRD has been **actively involved** in **shaping** this first ever **industry-led** supply chain sustainability assurance approach dedicated to solar, actively promoting enhanced supply chain standards, including amongst leading Chinese module suppliers.
- EBRD supports SSI's **multistakeholder board approach** established this year, to ensure a robust governance structure representing all key stakeholders.
- All major suppliers have already joined SSI accounting for nearly **90% of all global module production**.
- **Since 2021, EBRD directly engaged with nearly all of the top 10 module manufacturers on SSI as a means of meeting high MDB/international requirements.**

Source: <https://www.solarstewardshipinitiative.org/>

### Topics covered by the SSI and of interest to EBRD

Governance and business ethics	Environment	Human and labour rights
1. Business integrity 2. Policy and management 3. Stakeholders and communities 4. Transparency 5. Responsible sourcing	6. Greenhouse gas emission management 7. Water management 8. Waste management 9. Pollution management 10. Biodiversity management 11. Circularity	12. Human rights 13. Labour rights 14. Occupational health and safety





# Solar - EBRD's support for industry standards

EBRD supports the key industry-led SC standard for solar industry

## **EBRD promotes SSI amongst manufacturers**

Engages manufacturers, developers, installers, and purchasers across the solar PV value chain to achieve SSI certification.

## **EBRD supports SSI as a tool to ensure sustainable supply chains globally**

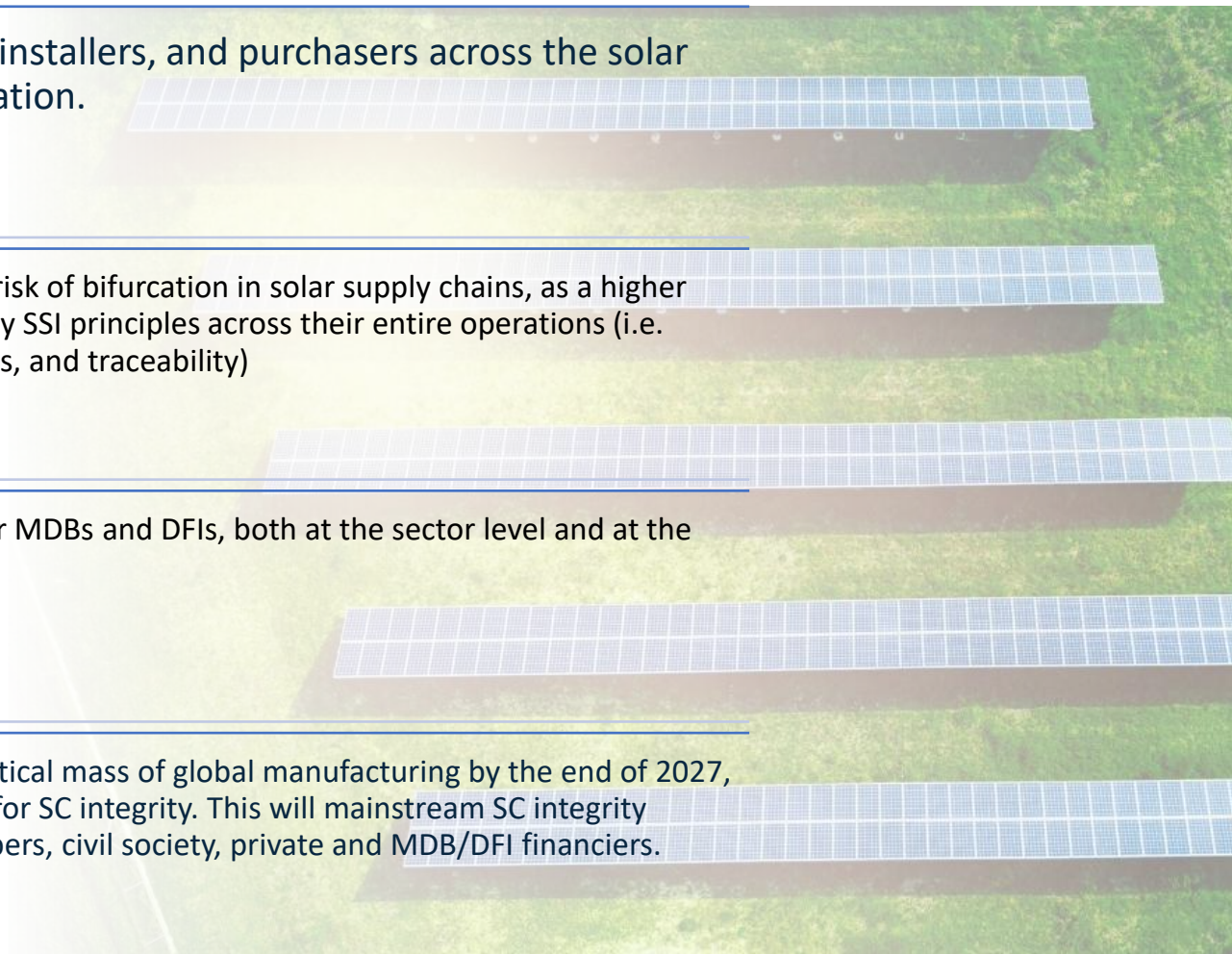
EBRD sees in SSI an opportunity to avoid the risk of bifurcation in solar supply chains, as a higher number of companies commit to SSI and apply SSI principles across their entire operations (i.e. responsible sourcing, respect for human rights, and traceability)

## **Strong collaboration with other MDBs**

The EBRD is highly coordinated with the other MDBs and DFIs, both at the sector level and at the E&S practitioners' level.

## **Aim to achieve a critical mass certified**

EBRD actively supports SSI's goal to certify critical mass of global manufacturing by the end of 2027, allowing EBRD/MDBs to rely primarily on SSI for SC integrity. This will mainstream SC integrity matters for entire industry: suppliers, developers, civil society, private and MDB/DfI financiers.



# Matthew Jordan-Tank

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**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development

# FINANCING | Buyer's Guide

**THE SSI:** Independent SSI assessments offer credible, bankable ESG and traceability evidence. Manufacturer targets (Annex 10) ensure increasing volumes of certified production — improving predictability for investors and developers. Public summary reports enhance transparency and reduce information asymmetry.

## **THE BUYER'S GUIDE:**

- Links SSI evidence to regulatory compliance and lender expectations.

### **What this means for buyers:**

Using SSI certification strengthens your own due-diligence files, supports financing discussions, and reduces risk of project delays linked to supply-chain concerns.





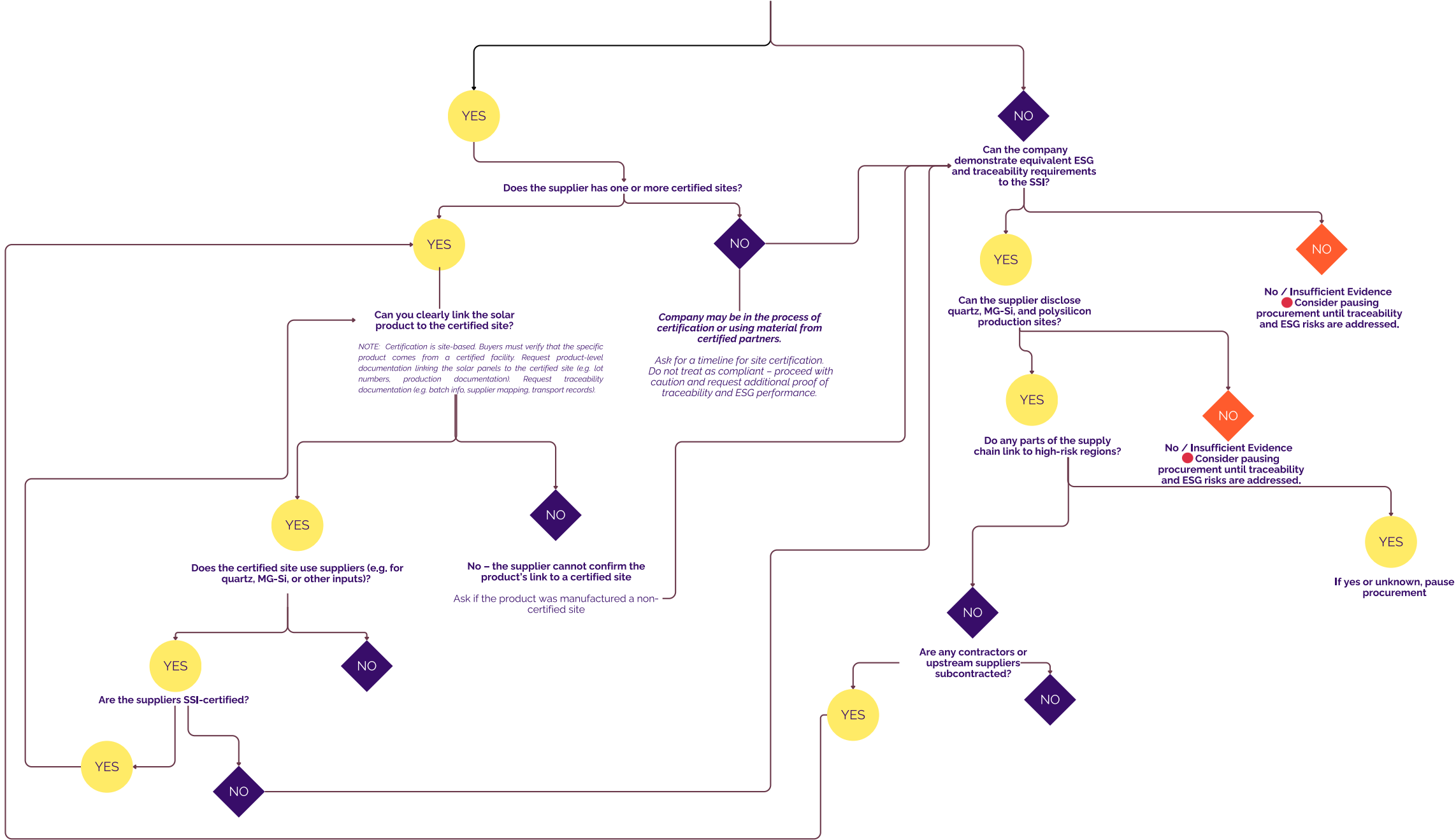
# Procurement Decision

By **Manuella Appiah**, ESG Manager,  
Sunrock



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IS THE SUPPLIER AN SSI MEMBER?





# SUNROCK

## Sustainable Solar Europe

Solar Stewardship Initiative and Corporate Procurement  
Strategies

**Manuella Appiah**  
ESG Manager

12/5/2025





# Sunrock - an overview

We are a strong, international and diversified team that operates across all of Europe with an equally diversified and global client base.

## Our successes and track record



- 700 MWp commercially developed rooftop solar projects, 2017-2025
- Over 1 million solar panels installed



- > 500 Mio. EUR secured first rank financing



- 150+ Employees
- 25+ Senior Project Developers
- 40+ Project Developers



- Currently active in 3 European countries
- Offices in Amsterdam, Paris, Düsseldorf und Hamburg
- Worldwide network



- ISO 9001 certified company
- ISO 14001 certified company



- Strong ESG track record

## Local experts, internationally active

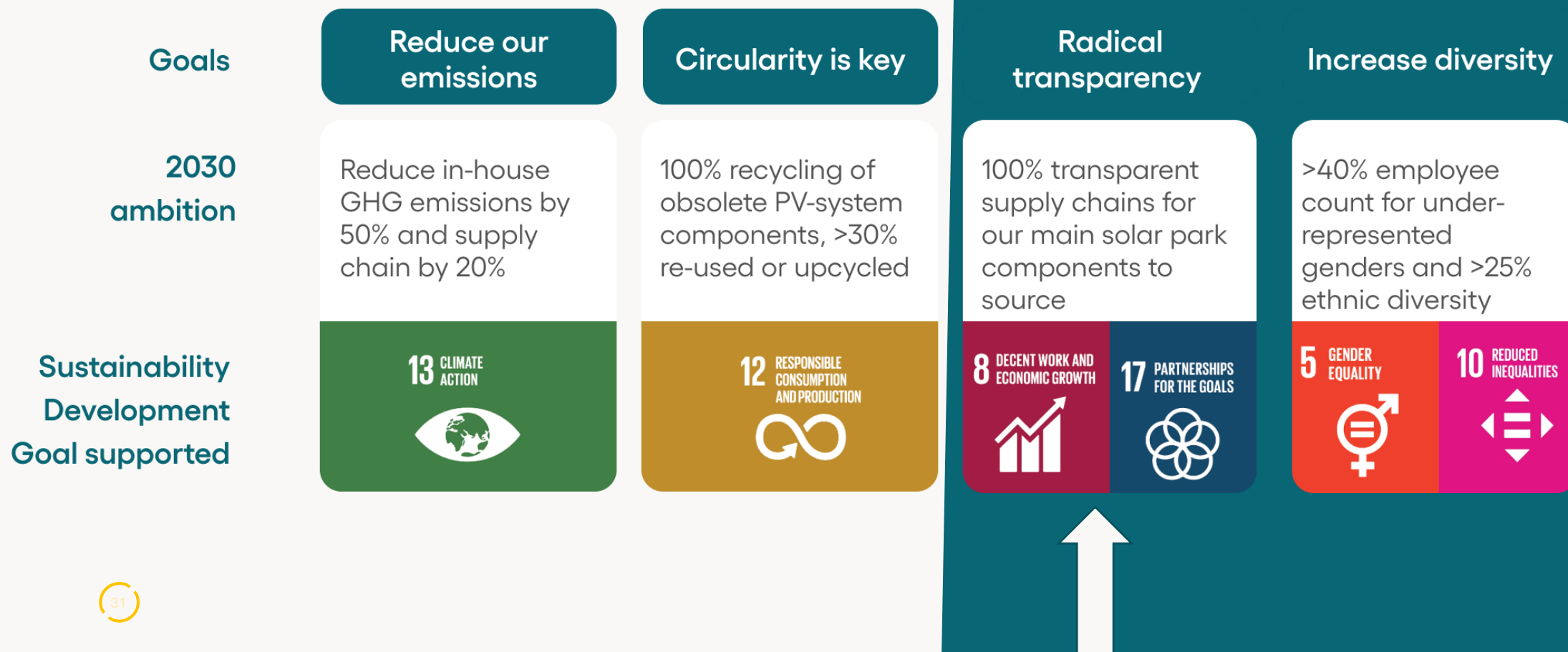


## Global customers





# Our ESG approach and journey – Better and Better



# Radical Transparency & the SSI Buyers Guide

## ☞ Sustainability of EPC partners

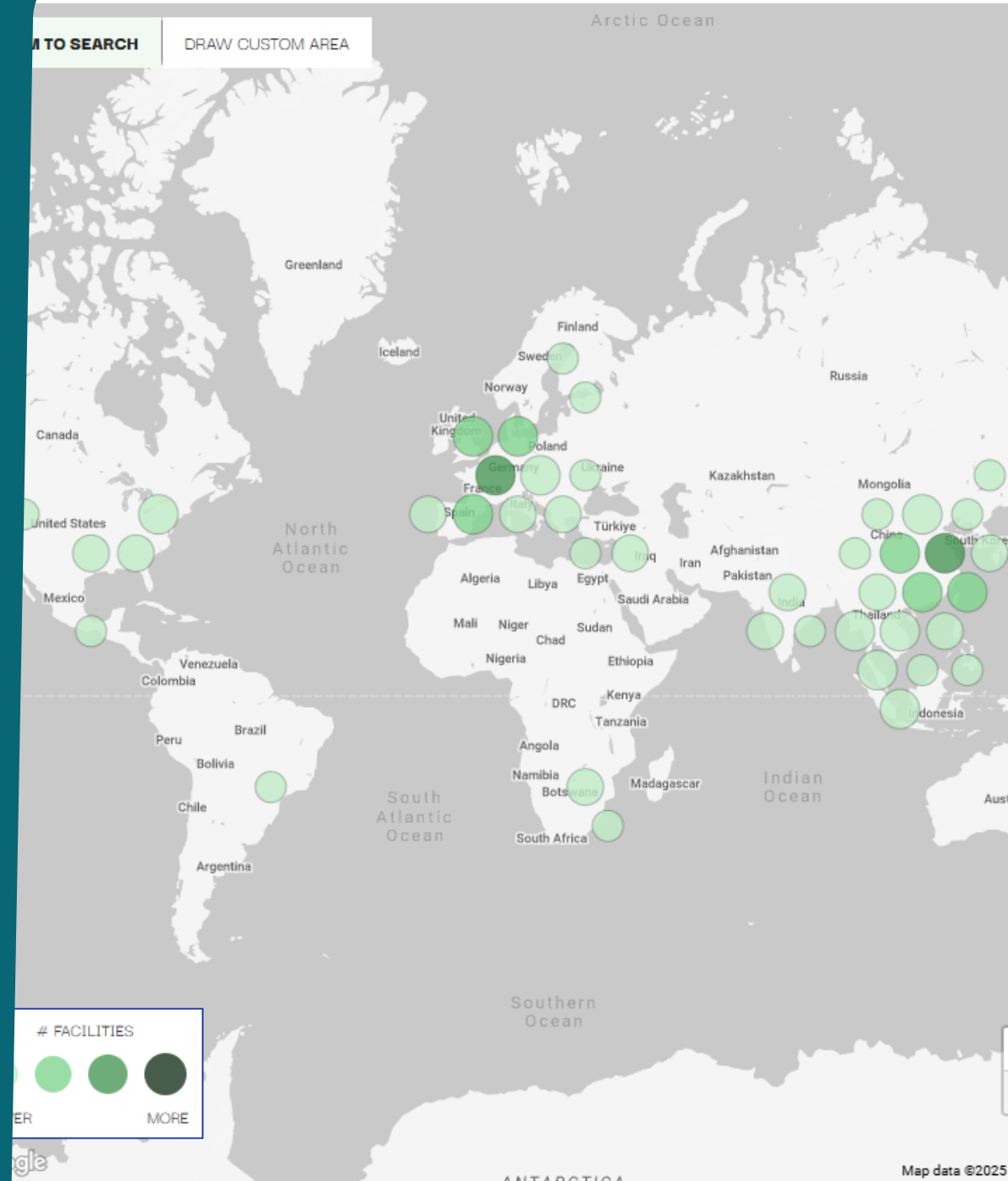
Working conditions at project sites

## ☞ Sustainability performance of component suppliers

Supply chain traceability

Supply chain transparency – Open Supply Hub

Responsible Sourcing policy and practice







**SUNROCK**

**ESG**

# Presentation



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## Contact

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# PROCUREMENT DECISION | Buyer's Guide

## THE SSI:

- The SSI certification confirms that modules are produced at ESG-conformant and traceability-verified sites.
- Assurance Manual ensures assessments are independent and consistent across suppliers.
- Manufacturer reporting rules support forward planning of certified capacity.

## THE BUYER'S GUIDE:

- Provides decision frameworks, checklists, and guidance to integrate SSI into RfQs, evaluations, and contracts.

### What this means for buyers:

You can make procurement decisions based on robust, comparable SSI evidence — reducing uncertainty, improving accountability, and aligning with regulatory expectations





# Closing words

By **Rachel Owens**, CEO,  
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# Download our Buyer's Guide



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# THANK YOU! | The SSI Secretariat



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