

# A bill to end forced labor in solar energy production

Will Chinese forced labor affect the solar energy industry?

A bipartisan bill in Congress seeks to address Chinese forced labor by blocking imports of goods produced in Xinjiang, where most of the global supply of solar cells is manufactured. CSIS's Scholl Chair analyzes how this could affect the U.S. solar energy industry.

What is the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act?

On December 23, 2021, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6256, known as the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. The act is intended to stem the importation of goods made with forced labor from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China into the United States.

How can solar PV developers and contractors avoid forced labor violations?

Solar PV developers and contractors should consider immediate mitigation measures to avoid the potentially catastrophic impacts of their projects being implicated in forced labor concerns, including violations of the act. Prudent mitigation measures may include:

Are Xinjiang solar panels a 'forced labor'?

Calls to Hoshine were not answered late on Thursday in China. Xinjiang companies, including makers of polysilicon products, have repeatedly denied that the region's labor transfer programs amount to forced labor. Allegations of forced labor in the solar panel supply chain have created a dilemma for U.S. officials.

How many shipments of solar energy equipment have been seized?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has seized 1,053 shipments of solar energy equipment between June 21, when the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act went into effect, and Oct. 25, it told Reuters in response to a public records request, adding none of the shipments have yet been released.

Does Biden want to press China over solar power abuses?

Allegations of forced labor in the solar panel supply chain have created a dilemma for U.S. officials. The Biden administration wants to press China over human rights abuses, but it also wants to expand the use of clean energy sources like solar power in the United States as it seeks to reduce carbon emissions.

PV Tech has been running PV ModuleTech Conferences since 2017. PV ModuleTech USA, on 17-18 June 2025, will be our fourth PV ModuleTech conference dedicated to the U.S. utility scale solar sector.

It also blacklisted three other Xinjiang-based solar energy companies -- Xinjiang Daqo New Energy, Xinjiang East Hope Nonferrous Metals, and Xinjiang GCL New Energy Material Technology. ... In end-consumer terms, "nearly every silicon-based solar module -- at least 95 per cent of the market -- is likely to have some Xinjiang silicon in it ...

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Production and Construction Corps, a paramilitary group that American officials say uses forced labor. Congress is also considering sweeping legislation that would ban all products with materials from Xinjiang unless companies certify that the goods are made without forced labor. John Ulliot, the spokesman for the National Security Council, said

energy technologies that are often sourced from areas with long and complicated histories of human rights abuses, including forced labor and forced child labor. Credible evidence indicates that manufacturers of silicon metal--used by the solar supply chain and other sectors--in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Xinjiang) of the Peoples ...

Our special thanks go to members of the Coalition to End Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region . ... where solar energy generation ... "reached a production capacity of 470,000 MT in 2020

Avoid suppliers complicit in exploiting forced labor. Solar sector companies should end supply contracts with and avoid purchasing products from corporations confirmed to be partaking in either or both of these roles: 1) operating any manufacturing facilities that are located in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and/or utilize forced labor.

Europe's solar industry is striving for a resurgence but forced labour allegations against a Chinese silicon manufacturer are complicating those efforts. A new report by the UK's Sheffield Hallam University lists German companies as possible beneficiaries of alleged forced labor in the Xinjiang region in China. The report titled "In Broad Daylight: Uyghur Forced ...

A call to action written by the SEIA in December to "ensure that the solar supply chain is free of forced labor" has been signed by nearly 250 solar companies, including JinkoSolar's US ...

In particular, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) in the US has launched a supply chain "traceability tool" and Solar Energy UK is pushing for a supply-chain transparency protocol to deal with forced labour concerns. We would recommend that solar industry participants use these tools and protocols where possible. Government Response

against forced labour as well as to completely refrain from suppliers and sub-suppliers from the Xinjiang province in China. Forced labour is a violation of basic human rights and is prohibited in the vast majority of jurisdictions around the world. At present, approximately 28 million people are subjected to forced labour and the solar

The new guidance may help mitigate severe challenges for the U.S. solar industry posed by detention of imported products such as solar panels. As the Biden administration has sought ...

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In December 2021, Congress overwhelmingly adopted the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) with strong bipartisan support, passing the House 428-1 and adopted in the Senate by unanimous consent. It was signed into law by President Biden on December 23. The UFLPA requires the administration to take significant new action to prevent goods ...

May 14, 2021. Immediate Release. Today the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University has published report with chilling reminder titled: " In Broad Daylight, Uyghur Forced Labour and Global Supply Chain with the collaboration of The End Uyghur Forced Labour Coalition.. The report highlights the harsh reality of Global ...

Solar energy is stored in lithium-ion batteries that use cobalt cathodes. 15-30% of global cobalt supply is mined in DRC in conditions in which forced and child labour is common. With solar energy generation projected to grow 450% by 2030, there is a risk that increased solar energy demand will drive an increase in forced labour and modern slavery.

The upstream portions of the solar supply chain are the most exposed to the alleged forced labour, namely quartz mining, metallurgical silicon (MGS) production and polysilicon production.

While continuing to intern people in camps without trial, local governments shifted their focus to the creation of an enormous forced labour regime. State-sponsored forced labour programmes are employed by companies both within Xinjiang and in the interior of China, affecting the supply chains of a wide variety of industries, including ...

The Solar Energy Industries Association's guidance protocol for solar supply chain tracing, for instance, is focused on tracking and excluding specific batches of product manufactured with a risk of forced labor, instead of seeking to exclude upstream suppliers whose operations wholly or partially exploit forced labor programs. Solar Energy ...

The White House announced steps on Thursday to crack down on forced labor in the supply chain for solar panels in the Chinese region of Xinjiang, including a ban on imports from a silicon...

Use appropriate tools, avoiding sourcing from high risk of forced labour zones. Watch for supplier bifurcation as a sign of forced labour dependence. 3. Supplier Contracts/Certifications: Implement a supplier code of conduct, ensuring adherence to practices that prohibit forced labour and abuse, in line with what the main international

The use of forced labour in the solar panel industry, particularly among the Uyghur population in China, has been a growing concern. ... refined from rock and ultimately turned into the solar panels that end up on rooftops and energy projects, including those in the United States and Europe. This has led to calls for greater transparency and ...

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4 days ago; Coalition to End Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region Statement for 56th Session of the Human Rights Council - China UPR Adoption ... a joint initiative of Solar Power Europe and Solar Energy UK, fails its members and the wider solar industry by remaining silent on Uyghur forced labour, the most pervasive and severe human rights risk in the ...

WASHINGTON D.C. -- The Senate passed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act today, banning the import of products from China's Xinjiang region into the United States. ...

In July, 2023, Maxeon was one of several companies named in a study by researchers with Sheffield Hallam University in England on the global solar supply chain's reliance upon forced labor in the XUAR. Researchers said Maxeon faced a high probability rating for using forced labor in part because of TZE's alleged links to XUAR suppliers.

from Xinjiang, programs that are often seen as a red flag for forced labor. Solar panels in Clovis, Calif. Together, the solar companies named in the report supply most of the raw materials for solar panels on rooftops and utility energy projects in the United States, Europe and elsewhere. Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

Coalition urges US Senate to pass the bill + welcomes CBP's XPCC Cotton Ban-- 6% of world's cotton supply Washington, DC -- Today, the Coalition to End Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region (Coalition) has written to 17 leading consumer companies - adidas, Amazon, Apple, Campbell Soup, Coca-Cola, Gap, Heinz, Inditex, Kohl's, L Brands, Nike, Nordstrom, ...

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