

Subject: Forced labour in solar module supply chain

Dear Sir / Madam,

Triodos Bank would like to draw your attention to the increased risk of human rights violations in the production of polysilicon for solar panels in the Xinjiang region of China.

Various research reports and media articles conclude that in this region Uyghurs are possibly interned in camps and subjected to forced labour. Recent reporting on the situation of the Uyghurs in the [New York Times](#), [S&P Global Market Intelligence](#) and [Bloomberg](#) -among others- highlighted the possibility of human-rights abuses in silicone production in Xinjiang.

A report by Horizon Advisory, published in January 2021 (not publicly available) concludes there is a risk that Uyghurs are forced to work on the production of polysilicone. The same conclusion was drawn in a study funded by American unions. The United States have taken additional steps to hold those who engage in forced labor accountable and has removed specific companies from their supply chains.

The Xinjiang region accounts for roughly 45 percent of global polysilicone production. A large part of the solar panels therefore most likely contains this raw material from this area.

Triodos Bank is a sustainable bank and asset manager, with a focus on sustainable energy projects, including solar panels. Human dignity is an integral part of our mission. We have a strong commitment to human rights, which is at the heart of our operations. As part of our strict due diligence when financing renewable energy projects, we ascertain there is a strong commitment of all partners and suppliers to respecting human rights.

Additional research into the polysilicon production in Xianjing by Technical Advisor Straight Forward - commissioned by Triodos Bank - shows that there is no hard evidence of human rights violations, but it is likely that forced labour is involved in the supply chain.

The above leads Triodos Bank to the conclusion that as a producer of solar panels/project developer of sustainable energy projects, you run an increased risk of human-rights abuses in your supply chain.

We therefore would like to ask written confirmation of the following:

- You have a strong commitment to human rights.
- Human rights are respected in your supply chain. Specifically, in your supply chain there is no forced labour of Uyghurs.

Triodos  Bank

If Triodos Bank does not receive the above written confirmation, we are forced to no longer finance projects that use your components.

Sincerely,