

Biosphere Solar's Environmental and Human Rights Policy

(March 2024)

Bringing fair and circular standards to the solar market and industry –
mission statement of Biosphere Solar B.V.

1. Our commitment

Biosphere Solar B.V. was created out of the need for a better world. A world where the planetary and social boundaries as explained through the [Doughnut Economy](#) are followed within the solar industry. As it stands, the solar value chain is largely untransparent, with evidence of forced labour and human rights violation, as well as unsustainable behaviour such as the use of coal in production.

The world Biosphere Solar envisions is one in which we uphold [human rights](#) independent of ethnicity, colour, sexual orientation, political views, religion, etc. Striving for this status-quo in the solar industry is what Biosphere Solar does and will continue to do for as long as it stands. Practically, and as part of its policy, Biosphere Solar therefore commits to acknowledging the adverse impact that it may have on humankind, and to mitigating these as far as possible, whilst remaining within the boundaries that enable its mission to come to life.

To use terminology commonly used in human rights policy making:

Biosphere Solar B.V. is committed to respect and support, at all times and as far as possible, all internationally recognized human rights of all rights holders throughout its full value chain. We therefore respect all human rights expressed in the [International Bill of Human Rights](#) (consisting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main instruments through which it has been codified: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the [International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#).

Where there is potential for adverse impacts on vulnerable people or groups, we will also consider other international standards and principles that elaborate on the rights of such individuals or groups, including indigenous peoples, women, national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, children, disabled people, migrant workers and their families, outsourced workers and human rights defenders. This includes, for example, the [UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) including the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent.

2. Our approach for implementing human rights policy

It is not easy to follow-up on such statements. However, we try our best. How? By carrying out the following six steps (which are extensively described by the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#)):

1. Making responsible business conduct not only part of our policies and culture, but our mission! (“Bringing **fair** and circular solar standards to the industry and market” – Biosphere Solar B.V. mission statement)
2. Regularly and at all possible steps of decision making, identifying and assessing actual and potential adverse impacts of Biosphere Solar B.V.
3. Integrating and acting upon the findings by either ceasing, preventing or mitigating adverse impacts
4. Tracking the effectiveness of our response to the adverse impact
5. Communicating and sharing our learnings and challenges with the wider world regarding the acting upon of adverse impacts
6. Providing for or cooperating in remediation when appropriate

All of this is an ongoing process, and we are acutely aware that Biosphere Solar B.V. is not perfect and that violations relating to human rights in the PV value chain will change over time and require constant attention and re-evaluation.

Stakeholder Engagement and Remediation:

Biosphere Solar B.V. recognises that risks relating to people and the environment require meaningful engagement with internal and external

stakeholders. To that end we draw on internal and/or independent external human rights expertise and involve meaningful consultation with potentially affected groups and individuals and other relevant stakeholders.

This stakeholder involvement is embedded in the ownership structure of Biosphere Solar B.V. and its holding party the One Biosphere Foundation, which possesses all the voting rights (Shares type A) of Biosphere Solar B.V.. Within the One Biosphere Foundation stands a Stakeholder Council with voting and advisory rights over the foundation, thus acting on Biosphere Solar B.V..

In cases when Biosphere Solar B.V. causes or contributes to an adverse impact on human rights or the environment, it endeavours to remedy or co-operate in the remediation of the situation through legitimate processes. In situations where it is directly linked to adverse human rights and environmental impacts because of activities in its supply chain, Biosphere Solar B.V. seeks to use and increase its leverage to prevent or mitigate those impacts.

Transparency and Leverage:

At the current stage of company development, we realise that we can only know about our impacts and show what we do to address those impacts, if we have visibility on our supply chain. We are therefore committed to increasing our supply chain transparency through working with Circularise and Open Supply Hub (or a similar platform). By selecting suppliers based on (in order of relevant steps to carry out): 1) supplier's openness to disclose relevant information, 2) the use of independent audit to verify such information, and 3) the use of credible reports in the event that information cannot be verified; Biosphere Solar B.V. ensures that supply chain transparency can as far as possible be upheld.

Additionally, we collaborate with suppliers and other organisations to increase our leverage to address and mitigate possible adverse impacts. For this purpose, we have joined the [International RBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector](#), a multi-stakeholder mechanism for implementing individual and collective due diligence, and for jointly developing long-term solutions towards tackling social and environmental risks in global value chains. To this end, we are also part of the [Fair Solar Network](#) of the Netherlands.

Disengagement is a last resort for us, if a supplier or business partner refuses to prevent impacts after a notice and warning process and even in these cases, we commit to responsible disengagement.

3. Scope

Our commitment applies to all rightsholders, which include but are not limited to all our direct employees, employees of our suppliers and contractors in our whole supply chains, customers, environmental and human rights defenders and local communities along our value chain, to the extent possible.

Biosphere Solar B.V. expects all of its customers, suppliers and their respective supply chains, and other business partners to uphold the commitments set out in this policy. Our principles, including compliance with this policy, are included in contracts and our code of conduct for suppliers and business partners. Through this policy and our code of conduct, we are committed to work with our business partners to implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, to promote supply chain transparency and establish long-term sustainable relationships.

4. Our salient human rights risks

We periodically identify and assess the impact of our operations on people and the planet and prioritise addressing the most salient risks based on likelihood and severity¹.

The following are the key human rights risks that we have identified:

Environment and biodiversity: Care for the environment and biodiversity is part of our mission. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment, we are unable to fulfil our aspirations. Environmental sustainability is therefore an integral component of our mission and we adhere to applicable international guidelines among which the [UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#), the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) and [The 2015 Paris Agreement](#). We apply measures in our design of solar panels, as well as through our business partners, to address issues around climate change, water, the use of hazardous chemicals, waste and other issues.

Employment practices: Biosphere Solar B.V. treats all of its employees with respect and dignity and promotes diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Our company policies and procedures adhere to all applicable domestic laws and are consistent with ILO core labour principles, including freedom of association and collective bargaining,

¹ For more information on how we state and determine the most likely and severe risks, please check page 48 of the [UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework with implementation guidance](#)

non-discrimination, equal remuneration, elimination of forced labour and child labour, and occupational safety and health. We expect our business relations to behave and act in a similar manner.

Forced labour: For the purposes of this Human Rights Policy, the following definitions apply: ‘Forced labour’ means forced or compulsory labour, including forced child labour, as defined in Article 2 of the Convention on Forced Labour, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization.

The seed of Biosphere Solar B.V. was planted when its founders first encountered the challenges relating to both circularity and human rights violations of the solar industry today. Since then, Biosphere Solar B.V. has been deeply concerned by reports from civil society organisations and research institutes on forced labour and discrimination of ethnicities and religious groups in the solar value chain.

We are particularly worried about the situation reported by different civil society organisations and research institutes in the Uyghur Region in China. Various sources report large scale forced labour programs negatively affecting the human rights of Uyghur, Kazakh and other ethnicities in the region. The situation is a concern to us as approximately 35% of the world’s solar-grade polysilicon supply comes from the region.

The solar value chain is fragmented and untransparent. That makes it difficult to track our products, subcomponents and constituent raw materials. We are nevertheless committed to do so.

To mitigate our potential involvement and adverse human rights impacts and forced labour and discrimination in particular, we pledge to follow the following statements once (semi-) automated production at scale (>1MW) is reached:

1. We have a zero tolerance policy for forced labour.
2. All our direct suppliers sign our Code of Conduct that clearly states our expectations with regards to forced labour and discrimination linked to religion or ethnicity, for their own operations as well as their value chains.
3. We ensure that our direct suppliers are not based in locations linked to forced labour. Moreover, together with our direct suppliers and their partners we constantly work on increasing our supply chain transparency in order to try to make sure that the suppliers of our suppliers do not employ forced labour. Part of this process is to check whether suppliers are not listed on:
 - a. The [UFLPA \(Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act\) Entity List](#);
 - b. The [US Bureau of Industry and Security \(BIS\) Entity List](#).

4. If we find out that indirect suppliers are linked to forced labour, we ask our direct suppliers to cease the business activities with these suppliers in a responsible manner.
5. We collaborate with others to increase our leverage and to tackle adverse impacts.
6. We also actively drive technological and process diversification through our Research & Development projects, which make us and our peers less dependent on production potentially linked to forced labour.

5. Rule of Law & Conflicting Requirements

In all situations and contexts, and in all jurisdictions wherever we operate, Biosphere Solar B.V. will comply with applicable laws and respect internationally recognised human rights standards.

In cases when local law and international human rights standards differ, we strive to follow the higher standards while complying with local laws. In case of direct conflict between the two, we will seek ways to honour the principles of internationally recognised human rights standards.

We will treat the risk of causing or contributing to gross human rights abuses as a legal compliance issue wherever we operate.

6. Approval and Oversight

This policy has been endorsed by the board of Biosphere Solar B.V. and shall be overseen by Perine Fleury.

Biosphere Solar B.V. will report, in an annual report, on the progress of the implementation of this policy. The policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to meet observed impacts and revised or additional international guidelines and legislative developments.