AIEN
Catalyst to achieving a circular economy

Recycling Renewables:
European Best Practice for Solar, Wind and Batteries

Webinar

Mon 30 June 2025
3:30 - 5:30pm
AEST

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TICKETS

AIEN Member: $77 inc GST
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The renewable energy sector has and is continuing to make an important and expanding contribution to the energy mix in Australia and internationally. The clean, green image enjoyed by the industry is also enormously important, given it can only expand when the broader public's faith in that image is maintained.

However, the renewable energy sector does generate wastes given the limited life span of its important foundational technologies: solar panels (25 to 30 years), wind turbines (20 to 30 years) and batteries (5 to 15 years). It is therefore important for the life cycle of their componentry to be considered when contemplating future designs or addressing the wastes to be generated when existing equipment reaches its end of life.

As is the case in most industries, the renewable energy sector has been primarily focussed upon roll-out of the technologies and has been somewhat slower in consideration of issues such as resource availability, resource management and resource sustainability for the longer term. That said, important initiatives in renewable energy sector component recycling are being increasingly scrutinised in relation to all three of these foundational clean energy technologies.

The AIEN is pleased to present a short series of two webinars in relation to the challenges, opportunities and current endeavours in relation to solar panel recycling, wind turbine recycling and large-scale battery recycling. The first seminar to be held on 30 June 2025 will focus on current European best practice as an example of leading international thought. The second seminar (proposed for late 2025) will focus on the Australian context and the recycling technologies that have been, or are likely to be, adopted here.

If you are passionate about shaping the future of renewable energy in Australia, committed to best-practice resource management, or eager to minimise carbon footprint through sustainable energy solutions, this webinar series is for you.

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MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Jan Jaap Folmer
Director
Uppact

Jan Jaap Folmer describes himself as a problem solver, optimist but above all a change-maker. Born in Friesland in the Netherlands, he grew a taste to travel the world, and it was during his time working across three different continents in oil and plastics that he truly realised the impact these industries were having on the planet.
He saw firsthand how much plastic from the West was ending up in landfills and oceans in the Global South. Seeing the effect this was having not only on wildlife but also local communities, Jan Jaap decided to do something about it. He started his own company Upp! in 2017 with the goal to not only make upcycle plastics but make plastic waste a thing of the past.

Dirk Jan Hummel
Project Director
Offshore Wind Innovation Centre

In 2010, Dirk Jan Hummel co-founded the NNOW group with the mission to support companies in the Northern Netherlands that are active in or looking to enter the offshore wind sector. NNOW fosters collaboration between businesses, knowledge institutions, and governments, establishing it as a key partner by major European wind clusters. In 2019, this led to the launch of the Offshore Wind Innovation Centre, which, among other goals, works on creating a sustainable approach to decommission offshore wind farms through a coalition of companies, knowledge centres, and facilities.

Janet Kes
Theme Lead Second Use, Recycling and Materials
Battery Competence Cluster NL

Mirjam Theelen
Senior Scientist Solar Energy
TNO

Mirjam Theelen studied Chemistry at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands, earning an MSc in 2007. She obtained her PhD from Delft University of Technology in 2015, studying the reliability of CIGS (Copper Indium Gallium Selenide) solar cells. Currently serving as a senior scientist at the TNO, Mirjam's focus is on the long-term stability of thin film photovoltaic devices and the sustainability of photovoltaics, including development of a laser-based recycling technique. Her work is published in more than 70 articles and has been presented at many conferences.