

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural**
3 **Affairs**
4 **Resolution #2**

5
6 **Resolution Calling on New York State to Pass Legislation Establishing an**
7 **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program for Solar Panels**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, New York State has adopted ambitious goals for renewable energy
10 deployment, including having 10,000 megawatts (MW) of distributed solar energy
11 across the state by 2030; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the rise in the use of solar panels to meet this goal has led to an
14 accumulation of waste at the end of their useful life; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan highlights that
17 the end-of-life management of solar panels and large-scale batteries will become more
18 of a concern as renewable energy technologies are implemented and grow; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Council’s Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) expressed strong
21 support for policies focused on waste reduction and indicated that the passage of an
22 EPR bill should be a priority for addressing emissions from the waste sector; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the responsibility for reducing waste from solar panels should be shared
25 among all stakeholders to alleviate undue burden on customers, counties, and other
26 local governments; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of an EPR program for solar panels would require
29 manufacturers, distributors, and other related suppliers/corporate entities to take
30 responsibility for the collection, transportation, and recycling of their products at the
31 end of their useful life; and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, such a program would incentivize the design of more sustainable and
34 recyclable solar panels, reduce the environmental impact of solar panel waste, and align
35 with New York State’s waste reduction goals; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of an EPR program for solar panels would support a
38 robust local solar panel recycling industry that would generate significant economic
39 development opportunities, including the creation of new jobs and the stimulation of
40 local economies; and

41
42 **WHEREAS**, other states, including Washington and California, have already
43 established EPR programs for solar panels, providing successful models that New York
44 State can learn from and adapt to its unique context; and

1 **WHEREAS**, New York State can also learn from Niagara County’s first-in-the-nation
2 local law, which requires written plans for the management of solar panels at their end
3 of life to ensure spent panels do not end up in landfills; and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the implementation of an EPR program for solar panels would position
6 New York State as a leader in sustainable energy practices and circular economy
7 initiatives.
8

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
10 Counties calls upon Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to enact
11 legislation to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility program for solar panels;
12 and

13
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be forwarded to all counties in
15 New York state urging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

16
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor
18 Kathy Hochul, the New York State Senate Majority Leader, the New York State
19 Assembly Speaker, and all others deemed necessary and proper.