

1 **2022 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Requesting the New York State Legislature Establish Solar Panel**
5 **Recycling Regulations**

6 **WHEREAS**, solar power is an essential part of New York State's efforts to meet its
7 climate goals, and a robust recycling program will promote a sustainable solar industry
8 in the state; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the rise in the use of solar panels has led to an accumulation of waste at
10 the end of the life of the solar panels; and

11 **WHEREAS**, solar panels contain recyclable aluminum, glass and plastic, as well as
12 photovoltaic cells, which contain various valuable materials and rare metals; and

13 **WHEREAS**, proper recycling of the solar panels will not only ensure that these
14 materials and metals are able to be reused but also ensures that the panels do not
15 prematurely enter the waste stream where they can have potential negative
16 environmental effects; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative that a convenient, safe and environmentally sound system
18 for the recycling of photovoltaic modules, the minimization of hazard waste, and the
19 recovery of commercially valuable materials be established; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the responsibility for the reduction of solar panels in the waste stream
21 should be shared among all stakeholders, with manufacturers, distributors, and other
22 related suppliers/corporate entities financing the takeback and recycling system in
23 order to alleviate undue burden on customers, counties, and other local governments.

24 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties
25 (NYSAC) hereby requests that the State of New York develop and adopt comprehensive
26 solar panel legislation that covers end-of-life recovery and recycling of all solar panels
27 currently in use and being sold in or into New York State; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC further requests that the State of New York:
29 • Develop legislation using the State's own Sustainable Materials Management
30 Model (SMM) so that the social, economic, and environmental consequences of
31 the choices made today do not adversely impact future generations; and
32 • Adopt definitions and terms used for solar panel recycling regulations so that the
33 nomenclature is consistent for all counties in the State of New York; and

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC hereby requests the New York State
35 Legislature adopt such legislation and amend such laws to establish solar panel
36 recycling regulations, including extended producer responsibility; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
2 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
4 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the
5 Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed necessary and
6 proper.