



REC GROUP CSR REPORT 2021

TIME TO SWITCH TO RESPONSIBLE SOLAR ENERGY As a frontrunning global innovator in solar technology, REC Group works to empower people all over the world through clean solar energy, and to make a positive impact on the planet, on people and on communities through a robust Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy.

The positive impact of clean energy is more important than ever. At last year's COP26 Conference in Glasgow, countries were requested to revisit and strengthen their targets for emissions reduction. Over 90% of the world's GDP is now covered by net zero commitments.¹ However, following the latest clear warning by the IPCC² that the world might reach the 1.5 °C temperature increase already in the early 2030s, everyone has to accelerate engagement – including REC Group.

Since its foundation, REC has aimed to empower people with clean, affordable solar energy while upholding responsible, sustainable business practices. Thanks to its high-efficiency products and eco-cautious manufacturing, REC is already contributing to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular to SDG 7, 'Affordable & Clean Energy'. Considering the urgency of mitigating climate change, REC is committed to further accelerating its efforts on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

However, our understanding of CSR has a much wider reach than clean energy. We focus on every aspect of our value chain, with governance structures to uphold ethical supply chains and fair operating practices, do our best for employees, protect and preserve the environment also within our own production, and support local communities.

INTRODUCTION

In this CSR report for 2020/2021, REC presents a comprehensive and transparent overview of our activities and results. The report is structured according to the core subjects defined in standard ISO 26000, which provides holistic guidance for CSR reporting. Our activities and reporting are driven by a dedicated CSR Steering Committee representing a wide variety of our corporate departments.

"At REC, we believe that as the solar industry grows in importance, so does our responsibility to be good corporate citizens, as well as more sustainable."



Jan Enno Bicker, CEO at REC Group as of March 2021

¹Source: https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/COP26-Presidency-Outcomes-The-Climate-Pact.pdf

² The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change.

WHO WE ARE

Founded and headquartered in Norway with production in Singapore and Norway, REC is a pioneering solar energy company – and a true advocate for global energy transitions.

By the end of 2020, REC had delivered a total installed capacity of 11 GW since the company's foundation in 1996. This is translating to 14 TWh of clean solar energy per year, enough to meet the energy needs of over 17 million people around the world. Every year, REC solar panels save 10 million tons of CO_2 emissions. Today, we have approximately 1,500 employees.

"Our mission is to empower people with clean, affordable solar energy through innovative technology."

Photovoltaics is our business

REC produces reliable, high-efficient solar panels based on patented technologies and backed by our comprehensive ProTrust warranty package. Our solar panels have won multiple industry awards over the history of the company, and the latest generations of our premium solar panels, the REC Alpha and Alpha Pure Series, continues this strong tradition.

We define quality more broadly

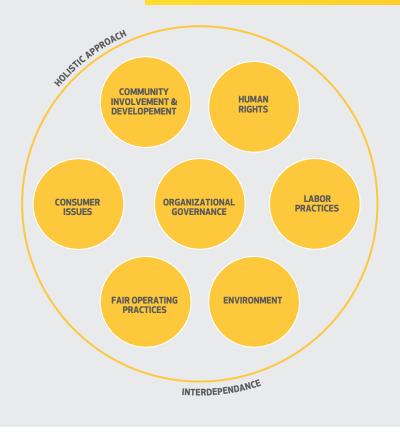
While we understand that global energy transitions can only happen with bold and high-efficient innovations, our focus on sustainability and quality embraces not only product technology, but also the entire value chain, from sourcing and manufacturing through to disposal of solar panels at the end of their service life. Sustainability is key to our Code of Conduct, and our entire senior management is committed to upholding these principles in all business activities.

In line with its wider social responsibility, REC makes extra effort to minimize the environmental impact of products through their entire service life, from production to disposal. Leading the solar industry towards a more sustainable future, the latest iteration of the Alpha Series, the REC Alpha Pure, is lead-free and RoHS compliant for less environmental impact.





ISO 26000 AND ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE



Social Responsibility Core Subjects

ISO 26000 is an international framework of standards that provide companies with guidance on how to operate in a socially responsible way. REC reports on its own Corporate Social Responsibility aligned with the core subjects defined in the ISO 26000 standard.

Organizational Governance at REC

Good governance ensures that policies and procedures for the other core topics are implemented effectively.

According to the ISO 26000 definition, organizational governance should ensure that decision-making and management practice are transparent and ethical. The interests of multiple stakeholders must be considered, not just shareholders, and attention must be paid to sustainable development.

REC has defined a three-level governance framework. The overarching Social Responsibility policy sets out objectives and practices for REC's activities. This defines the mandate for the CSR Steering Committee, whose members work out specific policies and action plans, such as guidelines for community projects, or our Code of Conduct. Level 1: Social Responsibility Policy

Level 2 : Mandate for CSR Steering Committee

Level 3 : Related Policies, Manuals, Guidelines & SOPs

RECCSR Steering Committee





REC GROUP CSR FACTS Key Results 2020

HUMAN RIGHTS

tolerance policy towards human right violations 28 supplier audits (-35%, due to pandemic restrictions)

violations identified of CSR or HSE principles, including human rights and labor practices

U HSE incidents Continued COVID-19 Safe Management Measures 1000/

LABOR PRACTICES

committed to diversity and equality 30% of female employees

+9.1% of employees above 50

re-certification of employees

on Code of Conduct and

Anti-Corruption

FAIR OPERATING PRACTICES

non-compliance identified with REC's Trade Controls Policy non-compliance identified with REC's fair advertising and promotion guidelines

CONSUMER ISSUES

overall installed REC solar panels (+10 %)

generated clean solar energy per year

people empowered with solar energy IU million tons avoided CO2 emissions per year **1,500** installers trained

55 PPM claims rate

88% claims closed within 14 days

TOP PERFORMER AWARD by PVEL for half-cut cell technology

INTERSOLAR AWARD for REC Alpha solar panel 4 | CSR KEY FACTS

ENVIRONMENT

SAVING RESOURCES, INCREASING CIRCULARITY

at REC's production sites in Singapore and Norway

1,223 M³ / MW

process water consumption in Singapore

469,207 M³ / year in Norway

148 MWH / MW

electricity consumption in Singapore

132,3 KWH / KG SILICON in Norway (high due to low production

volumes in 2020)

3,500 MWH

generated clean solar energy from own rooftop installation in Singapore

100% recycling rate of scrap modules in Singapore

Kerf upcycling innovation in Norway, reducing carbon footprint to 6-7 CO_{2-eq} / KG SILICON

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

communities empowered with clean solar energy by donating REC solar panels

INCREASED COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITIES

in Singapore to provide development opportunities for young people

LOCAL BEACH CLEANING initiative for REC employees in Singapore

HUMAN RIGHTS

Efficiencies in production and sourcing are key to module prices. However, REC also pays close attention to the conditions under which employees work, also at our upstream suppliers.

To be globally competitive, any manufacturer has to keep a keen eye on costs. For REC, this never means exploitation of employees. Human rights violations are however an issue in many manufacturing industries worldwide, including solar. REC abstains from any business activities that might compromise human rights, or which involve child labor, prison labor or forced labor. We manufacture in Singapore and in Norway. Both countries have strict human rights laws, which REC of course follows.



Supplier audits

We also expect high standards from our upstream suppliers and undertake regular audits. These audits examine labor practices, working conditions and HSE management systems, as well as observance of human rights standards. Owing to Covid-19 safety rules and travel restrictions, REC conducted fewer supplier audits than usual in 2020 – 28 compared to 43 the previous year. Nine new suppliers were audited, as well as 17 major changes of materials. The audits revealed no deviation from our high standards.

Audit activities continued despite the added challenges of the pandemic, and REC has also introduced online audits in addition to conventional on-site procedures. We continuously monitor new policies, and regularly review our own audit checklist to ensure the scope remains fully aligned with changes in regulatory frameworks. We positively welcome stricter rules to ensure high standards for all manufacturers.



Number of Supplier Audits on CSR & HSE

LABOR PRACTICES

With three strong pillars defining labor practices, REC has a consistent commitment to employee welfare. Each of the pillars is driven by a common set of KPIs, enabling year-on-year comparisons of metrics for continuity and focus.

Responsible HR Management Practices

The company is committed to diversity and equality, irrespective of gender, age or qualification. In 2020, REC increased employees in the 50-plus age group by 9.1%. Women now account for a higher percentage of the workforce – up from 23% in 2019 to 30% in 2020. Various initiatives for female professionals, including the 'REC Woman Club', 'Solar Wonder Women', and 'Working Mom' circle help to encourage professional development and close collaboration.

To develop new talent for the solar industry and offer a pathway to new entrants, REC stepped up collaboration with universities and polytechnics, offering combined work-study programs to degree and diploma students. We awarded more scholarships and prizes, and also offered 27 internships, while continuing our internal programs to re-skill and re-train employees.



The solar industry is full of amazing women making technology revolutions possible and driving the global energy transition. At REC, we are celebrating their stunning work.

Responsible Workplace

REC's objective is to improve the quality of employees' working lives. We do this through consistent standards and policies that require long-term commitment. Most importantly, in accordance with our 'zero accident' policy, we take every measure to keep employees safe and healthy.

Safety during the pandemic has been exemplary. Measures to prevent infections were put in place rapidly, such as offered health screenings. The REC@Home initiative has enabled employees to work from home while still collaborating effectively with colleagues and we have increased global sharing of best practices to a total of 19 sessions.

Making CSR a shared commitment for employees

In line with REC's role as a global advocate on sustainability, we want to get employees on board for CSR initiatives. We do this by empowering people and recognizing talents – for example with our 'CEO Excellence Awards' for employees. We also encourage eco-friendly practices at facilities that go well beyond standards mandated by local regulations. Initiatives in 2020 included the Earth Day Challenge (with efforts to save power and cut down on single-use plastics), and employee participation in a community beach-cleaning project in Singapore.

ENVIRONMENT WATER, ENERGY AND WASTE



Water

Water Saving & Recycling Programs



Energy Energy Saving Initiatives Clean Solar Power Generation



Waste

Non-hazardous Waste Hazardous Waste Modules and Kerf Recycling



Water savings & recycling programs

REC is committed to responsible use of the water required for production (process water). We have put measures in place to continuously reduce our consumption, and also to treat as much water as possible for reuse.

In Singapore, total process water consumption for 2020 was 1,223 m³ per MW.

- We continue to recycle water through Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment technology.
- At the end of 2020 we also introduced RO Reject Recycling for mono/HJT production, which promises even more savings on water.

- We also continued to treat wastewater. Having completed pilot testing for non-HF wastewater recycling in 2020, the implementation is now ongoing.
- Rainwater harvesting is another way in which we save water. 50% of sitewide trenches at the Singapore plant are interconnected, and rainwater is harvested and pumped to cooling towers after filtration. We aim to connect the remaining trenches in the near future.

The total projected savings out of these initiatives are at around $290,000 \text{ m}^3$ water per year.

For our production sites in Norway, wastewater consumption in 2020 was 469,207 m³ water per year.

Energy savings

We constantly monitor our workflows and manufacturing processes at our Singapore and Norway plants to identify potential energy savings and reduce our own consumption.

Singapore

Our electricity consumption at our Singapore production site was 148 MWh per MW in 2020. The following measures at our Singapore plant resulted in significant energy savings:

• Optimizing supply of chilled water

Energy savings: **2,190 MWh per year** CO2 emission reduction: **876 tons per year**

Cold shutdown of non-running module

lines & laminators

Energy savings: **1,860 MWh per year** CO2 emission reduction: **744 tons per year**

• Relocation of Wafer Lab tools

Energy savings: **381 MWh per year** CO2 emission reduction: **152.4 tons per year**

• Aircon reduction in HJT cell building Energy savings: 98 MWh per year CO2 emission reduction: 39.2 tons per year



Norway

Production volumes were very low over 2020 owing to a slowdown in production due to the pandemic and especially a restructuring of the silicon production to the innovative kerf recycling technology (see page 14), production volumes were very low over 2020. The Norway plants report on energy consumption in terms of consumption per kg of silicon – as a result the numbers have to be interpreted with caution.

Total specific electricity consumption in 2020 was 132.3 kWh per kg silicon.



REC's solar PV installation at the manufacturing site

PV installation at REC in Singapore

REC generates energy through our own rooftop solar installations, reducing our electricity consumption and our own carbon footprint. To date, around 3,000 kWp solar panel systems have been installed at our production site in Singapore.

In 2020, the rooftop installation at our Singapore factory generated almost 3,500 MWh, reducing our emissions by approx. 1,300 tons of CO2.

Waste Reduction Program

We differentiate and separate waste to recycling as much as possible.

Non-hazardous waste

Non-hazardous recyclables include glass, metal, aluminum, paper, wood and plastics. In 2020, we achieved an average recycling rate of recyclable materials of 61.8 percent in Singapore. The total non-hazardous waste in 2020 was 4.22 tons per MW.

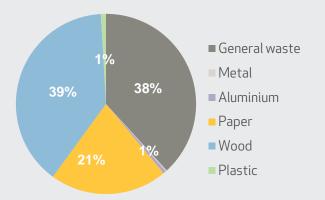
In Norway, REC takes most of its side streams into production. Of the amounts not taken back, over 90% is sold as new products, such as Solarite, which can be used as liming agents and fertilizers and serves to clean drainage water from roadwork landfill sites. Like at our Singapore production site, metal, aluminum, paper, wood and plastics are sent to recycling. In 2020, REC in Norway generated 1,795 tons of non-hazardous waste in total.

Hazardous waste

The largest category of non-recyclable waste at our production site in Singapore is Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) sludge, a by-product of cell production which is sent for landfill. Our focus here is on efforts to continue to reduce this waste. In 2020, 2.35 tons per MW of HF sludge was generated, a reduction of 13.5% compared to 2019.

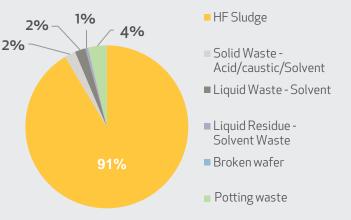
We continue to work hard to reduce hazardous waste further. Among the successful measures, we have scaled back chemical (lime) dosage in treatment lines, which directly reduces sludge volume. We are running a study on new treatment technologies to recover HF from HF wastewater and re-use for production purpose or sell as raw material.

The total generated hazardous waste in 2020 was 2.57 tons per MW in Singapore, while in Norway it was an absolute value of 2.8 tons.



Non-hazardous waste Singapore

Hazardous waste Singapore



ENVIRONMENT MODULE AND SILICON RECYCLING

Since 2014, the year after the REC recycling program for scrap solar modules was launched, REC has achieved a recycling rate of 100 percent. Based on the long lifetime of REC solar panels – 25 years and more – the scrap rate is low, averaging out at 0.5 percent of production.

REC retrieves the following materials from module recycling:

- aluminum (from frame)
- silver (from the cell)
- copper (from cables, connections and ribbons)

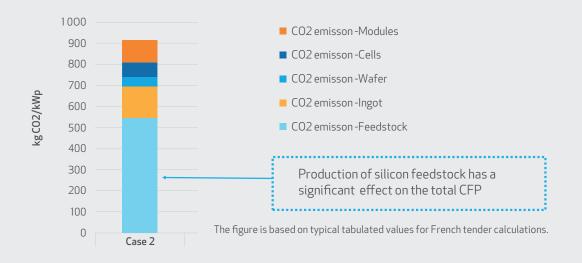
Recycling requirements differ from country to country. REC acts in accordance with local regulations in its key markets.

In Europe for instance, we partner in the "take-e-away" program, which offers businesses easy solutions for WEEE.



Huge step to more circularity

A low carbon footprint (LCF) solar panel is vital for project developers to secure deals. In France, for example, developers must offer LCF solar panels in order to be eligible to bid for public tenders. The carbon footprint of solar modules is defined especially in terms of silicon production. This is the most energy intensive step of manufacturing solar panels and has the greatest environmental impact. As such, circular and low carbon footprint production of solar grade silicon is set to become a key differentiator for solar panel brands.



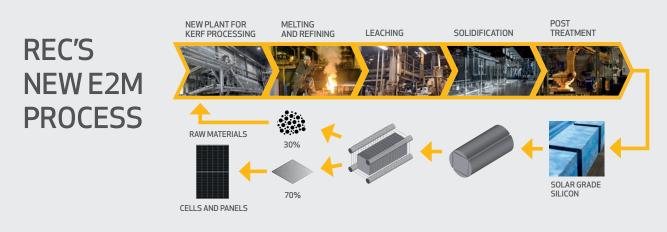
REC's polysilicon already has the world's lowest carbon footprint, putting the company in pole position. However, REC is committed to doing even more. REC is the first and to date only solar panel manufacturer worldwide to embark on the next big innovation to further reduce energy consumption and carbon footprint: Kerf Upcycling

Kerf upcycling for the circular economy

A problem with the production of wafers from solar silicon is the low-quality byproduct. During the standard wafer slicing process, around 30 percent of the silicon remains as "waste", or kerf. "Kerf" is defined as the very fine material, generated during wafer sawing. For more than 20 years, the industry has tried to find a way to upcycle the kerf back to solar grade silicon in full scale, without success until now. REC has invented a unique kerf processing technology which makes it possible to fully upgrade this otherwise low-value silicon material to a quality level which can be easily reused in wafer and solar panel production. Compared to the conventional Siemens process used by the majority of the industry players, mainly in China, we calculated that we can

drastically reduce energy consumption by 85% and the carbon footprint by 96%. Considering the huge amount of kerf generated in silicon production worldwide (more than 200,000 tons a year), this recycling is not only an important innovation for REC, but also for the entire solar industry.

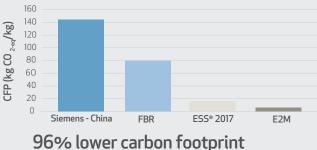
In 2020, REC took this unique kerf processing method into production: the new line was installed, and by the end of the year we had begun mass production with this important new technology. Based on the new process, REC is able to reduce direct electricity consumption by 10 kWh to 18.3 kWh per kg silicon. This translates into emissions savings of 6-7 CO_{2-eq} / kg silicon (estimated values, full Lifecycle Analysis to be performed in 2022).

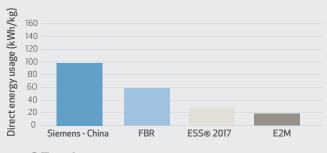


Other positive impacts of kerf upcycling

We plan to receive 20,000 to 23,000 tons of wet kerf (waste) from wafer producers per year and upcycle it in our production line. This means 24,000 tons less quartz will be needed overall per year, reducing the negative impact of mining, including energy and water consumption, erosion and sinkholes.

The challenge we are still working on is that up to 50% of the wet kerf is water. Before the kerf can be put into our kerf upcycling process, the water has to be taken out in big 'dryers'. As most wafer production is in China, this means at present, approximately 10,000 tons of water is being transported from China to Norway per year, which in itself causes emissions. Research is in progress to do a pre-drying in China in order to reduce the amount of water transported to Norway.





85% lower energy consumption

FAIR OPERATING PRACTICES



We also convey our values in international relationships.

Trade control policy

We do not conduct business with countries, organizations or persons that are subject to sanctions or selective sanctions.

We examine possible transactions or partnerships with regard to sanctions as published by the US (OFAC), the UN and the EU as well as other countries (e.g. UK). We operate a Trade Controls Policy which is strictly followed. Sanctioned countries are listed, updated and communicated periodically within REC in our policy. Our Trade Control Policy is reviewed twice annually with regard to any updates to the list of sanctioned countries.

We absolutely refrain without any exception from dealings with "red category countries" according to our Policy, which are for 2020: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Crimea Region of Ukraine, and Syria. For all other sanctioned countries (for example Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Venezuela), we have installed an Approval Committee headed by the CEO, CFO and Chief Legal Officer, which would have to approve deals in such countries, and only after clearance by a third-party screening (e.g. Designated Person Lists). Such approvals are granted only in exceptional cases.

Employee training

In order to ensure that all our employees understand and follow REC's fair operating practices, management undertakes regular mandatory trainings, such as Re-certification on Code of Conduct and Anti-Corruption or on the California Sexual Harassment and Abusive law. In 2020, all trainings achieved a 100% completion rate.

Fair advertising & promotion

On the sales side, we implemented standards and policies for advertising and promotion in May 2020 and continue to develop these policies. They serve as guidelines to prevent unfair competition and unfair sales promotion. In 2020, there were no deviations from our guidelines.

CONSUMER ISSUES

The ISO 26000 standard encourages organizations to take responsibility toward consumers, for example by promoting sustainable consumption and protecting health and safety. In line with REC's mission to empower people with clean solar energy and drive global energy transitions, we are continuously expanding our channel network and solar footprint: Up to the end of 2020, 11 GW of REC solar panels had been installed, empowering more than 17 million people in communities worldwide with 14 TWh of clean solar energy, and mitigating 10 million tons of CO2 emissions per year.

Growing together

This is driven by continually expanding our network of partners and our solar footprint. With our Customer Management System, we focus on fair and long-term relationships with partners and clients, applying standards and policies such as fair and factual marketing, the REC Code of Conduct and strict rules on protecting customer data. Our business relations with our partners and installers are based on the approach 'Growing Together'. As such, the education through the REC Solar Professional Program is a key pillar. In 2020, we trained additional 1,500 solar professionals on how to best install REC solar panels to the benefit of the consumers and our partners. We also operate clear procedures on social responsibility - also paying attention to the credibility of suppliers and project developers in terms of their CSR balance sheet.

High product quality for sustainable customer satisfaction

Keeping customers satisfied is also a big part of the ISO 26000 standard around consumer issues. This has always been the foundation of our business. Our products meet consistently high standards both on technology innovation and manufacturing quality. Of the around 3 million solar panels that REC manufactured in 2020, no more than 170 were returned as claims, making REC a reliable partner for solar professionals and project developers of commercial, residential and utility installations. In the exceptional case that solar panels need to be returned, we are committed to keeping claims process cycle times short, in order to minimize the impact for our customers and consumers. In 2020, we again achieved our target of closing more than 80% of all claims within 14 days of receipt. To give our installers and consumers long-term peace of mind, our highquality products are backed by our comprehensive ProTrust warranty, which offers up to 25-year coverage on product, labor and performance, subject to conditions.





Innovation and awards

Technology leadership is also reflected in award wins and excellent scorecard rankings for REC products, giving our customers the certainty that they are choosing a reliable product with long-term efficiency and performance. The REC Alpha solar panel reaped multiple awards, including a prestigious 2020 Intersolar award in the PV category. For the fifth year running, REC's half-cut technology was named 'Top Performer 2020' in the annual PV Module Reliability Scorecard by DNV GL, the world's largest independent expert & certification body for renewable energy.

In 2021, REC continued its proven record of excellence in technology innovation and manufacturing quality to the benefit of consumers. The REC Alpha Pure solar panel testifies to our continued efforts to lessen environmental impact. The REC Alpha Pure is showing a higher power output as its predecessor but is lead-free and RoHS compliant.

Benefit to our customers' business

In 2021, EPD Norway approved and published Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for solar grade silicon and for multicrystalline silicon blocks made by REC. With an EPD for solar grade silicon, authorities, developers and individual customers can objectively assess their choice of solar PV product with respect to its embedded carbon footprint. REC in fact boasts the lowest carbon footprint in the world for solar grade silicon. Our customers – mainly project developers and installers – can therefore present a compelling business case for public and private sector tenders with solar panels that have impeccable credentials on sustainability.

EPDs for solar grade silicon and for multicrystalline silicon blocks made by REC



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



REC remains committed to empowering people worldwide with clean solar energy and education. Guidelines for community involvement are defined as part of REC's CSR framework, and REC is proud to support a range of projects and initiatives around the world.

Australia

To assist in recovery from Australia's Black Summer Bushfires in 2019-2020, REC in 2020 began providing solar panels to non-profit community groups, giving schools, sporting clubs, community hubs and emergency services access to approximately 50 x 6.5kw fully installed systems complete with REC Alpha Series panels, inverters and racking.

India

REC partnered with the NGO Global Himalaya Expedition (GHE) to bring solar power to rural medical centers in the Himalayan region of India. REC Alpha and TwinPeak solar panels are set to provide two centers with 24/7 energy access, enabling better critical healthcare, a reduction in infant mortality, and higher immunization due to proper transportation of vaccine for almost 100 villages.





Singapore

To provide people with development opportunities, REC increased its participation and collaboration with universities, offering scholarships as an easier access path into further education for more people and provided 27 internship positions in REC. Being a responsible corporate citizen, we also participated in a local beach cleaning initiative.





USA

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, REC collaborated with the Honnold Foundation in the Adjuntas Micro Grid Project and provided a 220 kW solar panel installation to power 17 small businesses, backed up by 12 days of battery storage.

Also in the US, REC provided 20 kW of TwinPeak 2 solar panels to the Red Cloud Renewable Energy Center in Pine Ridge, a non-profit organization managed by Native Americans from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Following the many bushfires, flooding and winter storms worldwide, the Paris 1.5°C goal is more than ever on the agenda. The latest clear warning from the IPCC indicates the 1.5 °C temperature increase could be reached by the early 2030s, possibly less than a decade away. That means we all have to accelerate engagement – including REC!

Through its high-efficiency products and eco-cautious manufacturing, REC already makes a robust contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid out by the UN, in particular goal number 7: Affordable & Clean Energy.



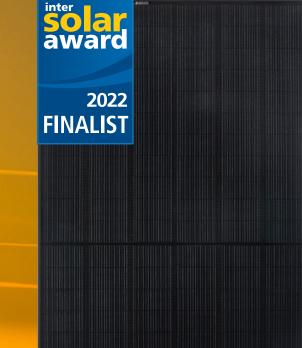
REC will continue to follow its mission to empower people worldwide with clean and affordable solar energy through its innovations. Our mid-and long-term prime focus is to minimize emissions in order to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C by:

- Pioneering and responsible technologies, increasing efficiencies and reducing resources
- Continuing to support communities in need as we have done with the REConstruct initiative in Australia
- Empowering REC employees to contribute more ambitiously. We are stepping up measures to raise awareness on CSR and by encouraging Employee Engagement Initiatives
- Continuing to report transparently and fully on REC's CSR activities, and engaging with third parties to drive necessary change









REC ALPHO PURE SERIES PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS









COMPACT PANEL SIZE





