



energy fair trade coalition

Forced Labor

The Solar manufacturing industry is at High Risk of exposure to forced labor. Congress and CBP must scrutinize the global supply chain more closely.

The Energy Fair Trade Coalition is concerned about the prevalence of forced labor in the energy sector and in particular seeks **equal and precise enforcement** of laws like the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA). Companies who have exposure to forced labor in their supply chains can price out manufacturers with ethical supply chains, thus incentivizing forced labor.

High profile reports from Sheffield Hallam University* indicate that many solar manufacturers have very high risk of exposure to forced labor. Even a leading American manufacturer was revealed to be utilizing forced labor in its own factory in SE Asia. Due to the scarcity of minerals needed for solar technology, manufacturers in all countries, not just China, can have a deep reliance on forced labor.

Enforcement of UFLPA in the solar sector has largely been limited to Chinese headquartered companies. We are pleased these companies face scrutiny. However, in response to UFLPA, firms relying on forced labor have moved manufacturing out of China while still sourcing components and materials using forced labor. This allows them to avoid scrutiny from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

EFTC encourages Congress and the Administration to more closely scrutinize solar manufacturing supply chain to ensure compliance with UFLPA to encourage the ethical sourcing of materials and help eliminate the scourge of forced labor.

Energy Fair Trade Coalition www.eftc.org

* Crawford, A. and Murphy, L. T. (2023), "Over-Exposed: Uyghur Region Exposure Assessment for Solar Industry Sourcing," Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Hallam University Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice