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Ashley Taylor
Managing Director
NetZero Middle East

The waste from end-of-life materials used for clean energy infrastructure could grow by 30 times over the next decade. Recovering those materials and reintroducing them to the value chain is complex from a logistical point of view. For one, the ecological and climate benefits of using recycled materials must be fully accounted for in the cost of the materials.

Cost really matters

All the recycled secondary materials would have to compete on price with primary materials. There is a long way to go. For one, we are not properly factoring in the potential of the huge amounts of waste coming from the solar farms that are springing up around the globe. The worry is whether the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) have the capacity and technologies to recycle the waste. Perhaps given the long service life of solar PVs, batteries, and wind blades, we have some time to get those facilities in place.

GCC's Progress?

Despite progress in the GCC region, the impetus has not been taken to the next level. What is not being encouraged enough is for governments to play a clear role. So far, the role of market incentives has not been fully grasped in the region. We also do not see governments working with producers, such as enhancing their responsibility to add recyclable and biomass material into their products. At the moment, there are few producers and importers sharing the responsibility for waste management. We must also encourage more circular procurements. Companies must consider what will happen to products at the end of life. Can their parts be reused and repurposed to retain that value? Finally, there ■

**Paraphrased comments*

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