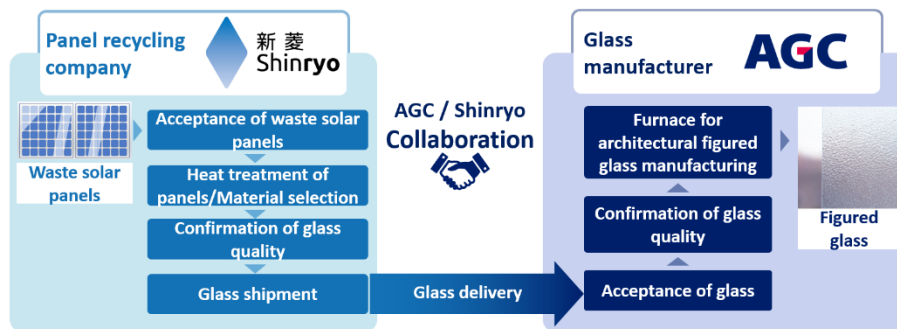


AGC Achieves Success in Demonstration Test of Solar Panel Cover Glass Recycling — A first in Japan for sheet glass raw materials —

Tokyo, November 7, 2023 - AGC (Headquarters: Tokyo; President: Yoshinori Hirai), a world-leading manufacturer of glass, chemicals, and high-tech materials, has announced that it has succeeded for the first time in Japan in a demonstration test to recycle about 24 tons of used solar panel cover glass into raw material cullet (pieces of broken glass). The test was conducted from October 19 to 22, 2023 at the AGC Yokohama Technical Center's figured glass production furnace. For the recovery of glass from solar panels, the test used the heat treatment technology of the commercial solar panel recycling production line of Mitsubishi Chemical Group company Shinryo Corporation (Headquarters: Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture).



Recycling process for solar panel cover glass

The service life of solar panels is estimated to be 20-30 years, and panels weighing hundreds of thousands of tons are expected to be disposed of annually starting in the late 2030s. Cover glass accounts for about 60% of this total weight, and there is concern that a serious environmental impact will occur if disposed of as industrial waste in large quantities in landfills.

In this demonstration test, it was confirmed that solar panel cover glass can be turned into raw material cullet that can be reused for flat glass production through a special heat treatment. This will reduce industrial waste and conserve raw materials derived from natural resources such as silica sand and soda ash, thereby contributing to the promotion of the circular economy. Furthermore, the promotion of raw material cullet utilization will lead to GHG emission reductions in the manufacturing process.

The AGC Group has set "promoting sustainability management" as one of the key strategies in its medium-term management plan, [AGC plus-2023](#), and is aiming to solve social issues through materials innovation and to achieve net zero carbon* by 2050. AGC will continue to contribute to the realization of a sustainable global environment.

Note: *Scope1 and Scope2

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