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Henderson supports groundbreaking research on the impacts of solar panel manufacturing

- Research shows two thirds of responding solar panel manufacturers support mandatory take back and recycling

Henderson Global Investors' (Henderson) Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) team has sponsored research published today which, for the first time, scores solar panel manufacturers on their social and environmental performance.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) modules are the key component in any solar panel, but the management of impacts from the manufacturing process on workers and the environment as well as the end of life disposal has not been assessed until now.

The research report "Solar Scorecard" was published by the Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition (SVTC), a non-profit organization based in the U.S. engaged in research and advocacy to promote human health and environmental justice in the high-tech industry. The SVTC surveyed over 200 global companies on their current manufacturing practices and corporate social responsibility. The survey considered a range of critical issues including producer responsibility, supply chain management, green jobs, chemical use and life cycle analysis. The goal of SVTC's Solar Company Survey was to have companies self-report on toxic chemical reduction and how they address worker and environmental safety. The scored results are intended to serve as a resource for both investors and consumers.

Nearly one third of the industry (by cumulative market share) responded to the survey, including four of the world's seven largest solar cell producers. Results found that while German companies scored most highly (Calyxo, Q-Cells and SolarWorld all scored over 85%) there were also strong scores from the US (First Solar scored 77%) and from China (Yingli scored 69%).

These results are likely to reflect best practices in the industry and demonstrate that leaders are taking their social and environmental impact seriously. For example, of the companies that responded to the survey:

- nearly two-thirds support mandatory take-back and recycling of solar equipment.
- half are already providing recycling services free of charge.
- nearly half have already developed minimum environmental, health, safety and/or labour standards for panel recycling with a further four companies committing to develop such a policy.
- half of the companies have also undertaken some analysis of their supply-chains to assess the social and environmental performance of their suppliers though only one (SolarWorld) uses an external audit firm.

Seb Beloe, head of SRI research at Henderson Global Investors said: "As SRI investors, we believe that solar power will be a key part of the world's energy solution and that the industry needs high corporate responsibility standards if it is to continue to enjoy public support and fulfil its potential as a truly sustainable industry. The industry is still relatively young and it is important that it puts in place these standards in order

to provide a strong foundation for the rapid growth that the industry is expected to undergo in the coming decades.

“We were pleased with the level of response for the first year of the survey and surprised to see that nearly two third of respondents would like some kind of legislative intervention to make take back and recycling of solar equipment mandatory.

“By continuing to support and engage the industry, we hope that it will be able to meet the high environmental standards it has set for itself and develop a strong reputation for corporate responsibility. This is the first scorecard, and is the initial step in measuring companies’ commitment to taking responsibility for the impact of their products.

“We plan to support research in this area again next year and hope to achieve an even higher response rate. Key areas for improvement by the industry include the reduction of toxics during the manufacturing process.”

Sheila Davis, executive director of SVTC explained *“Solar power is key to helping solve the world’s climate crisis but the industry still faces serious issues that need to be addressed before it can be considered truly ‘clean and green’ and socially just.”*

The scorecard can be accessed from: www.henderson.com/sri

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Notes to editors

About Henderson Global Investors

Established in 1934, Henderson Global Investors is a leading independent global asset management firm. The company provides its institutional, retail and high net-worth clients with access to skilled investment professionals representing a broad range of asset classes, including equities, fixed income, property and private capital. With the principal place of business being London, Henderson is one of Europe’s largest investment managers, with £58.1 billion assets under management (as at 31 December 2009) and employs around 930 people world-wide.

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About the Henderson SRI Team

Henderson is one of the world’s leading providers of SRI funds with over 30 years’ experience. The team manages over £726 million (as at 31st December 2009) in SRI assets, across a range of pooled and segregated funds for clients including pension funds, local authorities, charities and individuals. The team’s investment approach uses thematic analysis to identify companies that are 'Industries of the Future'. Typically these companies provide solutions to sustainability challenges and therefore can create positive long-term investment opportunities. These ‘Industries of the Future’ fit within 10 themes and range from Cleaner Energy to Water Management, to Social Property & Finance and Health.

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