

DOKTORSKÝ STUDIJNÍ PROGRAM / DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAM

VYPSÁNÍ TÉMATU / LISTING OF TOPIC

Studijní program / Study Program: **Exploitation and Conservation of Natural Resources**

Katedra / Department of: **Soil Science and Soil Protection**

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Forma studia / Form of Study: **Full_time**

Téma / Topic: SOLAR PANELS – A GLOBAL E-WASTE: TRACKING THE FATE AND BEHAVIOR OF EMERGING SOIL POLLUTANTS USING STABLE ISOTOPE PROXIES

Hypotézy / Hypotheses: The thesis aims to: (I) track the environmental stability of SPs and contaminant release from this e-waste; (II) assess the role of soil and soil factors in the degradation of SPs; (III) track the fate of major SPs-derived contaminants using stable isotopes as redox proxies.

Anotace / Summary: Crystalline silicon solar panels (SPs) are the most widely used type of photovoltaics worldwide, accounting for ~90% of the total market share. Beyond the general strategy of proper recycling of SPs, there is evidence of unsustainable disposal of this e-waste, including landfilling, which exposes the environment to a range of chemical hazards. Most importantly, the degradation of SPs can lead to the release of toxic trace elements, making them emerging contaminants. Questions concerning the long-term stability of SPs, their degradation potential in soil systems, and the role of soil properties in the release rate of pollutants all remain unanswered. This project uses model-based methods to assess the environmental impact of SPs, i.e. when they are landfilled – enter soils. For the first time, combined/novel isotope systems of Ag, Sb and Cu are proposed to be used as proxies to track individual post-depositional processes of major contaminants derived from SPs. These data are clearly needed to better understand the fate and/or to quantify potential hazards associated with SPs e-waste.

