

Solar Panels - UK - September 2018

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“The UK solar PV sector faces significant challenges as a result of government policy changes. However, the sector is expected to return to growth in a post-subsidy world as the cost of solar PV continues to fall, and more efficient and affordable battery storage solutions and more innovative finance and business models become available.”

– Claudia Preedy, B2B Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Commercial sector offers huge growth potential for solar PV despite some barriers to deployment
- Growing number of companies are moving into nascent solar-plus storage market

The UK solar PV market only started to properly emerge in 2010 but grew rapidly between 2011 and 2015. Since 2015, the government has introduced major cutbacks for solar PV support schemes, including the early closure of the RO scheme to solar PV (mainly affecting ground-mounted installs) and a drastic reduction in FIT rates (affecting roof-top installs) in early 2016. This has caused solar PV installations to plummet and significant fluctuations in deployment, with peaks in deployment evident just prior to the various deadlines of government support schemes. Unsurprisingly, this has posed significant challenges to the industry.

While market conditions will remain challenging in the near future, there is optimism for growth to return to the post-subsidy UK solar PV market, reflecting continuing falling costs, innovation in solar-plus-storage systems, and the emergence of innovative finance and business models.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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Solar PV still offers an attractive and viable option for commercial sector
Ground-mounted sector moves into post-subsidy phase

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Nearly 13GW of solar PV installed in UK

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Companies and Brands – What You Need to Know

Government policy change results in many companies exiting UK solar PV sector and job losses

Solarcentury and IKEA team up to offer residential solar systems and home batteries in UK

BSR launches behind-the-meter energy storage solutions provider

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41% of respondents would consider having solar panels installed if a solar company/installer proved the cost savings

Nearly a third of homeowners would consider having solar panels installed if more cost-effective energy storage systems become available

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Ownership

Ownership levels of solar panels remain low

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73% would like to see all new homes fitted with solar panels where suitable

Figure 35: Attitudes towards solar panels, May 2018

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Figure 36: Attitudes towards solar panels, May 2018

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Solar companies need to accurately prove cost savings to homeowners to drive sales in residential solar PV market

Nearly a third of homeowners would consider having solar panels installed if more cost-effective energy storage systems become available

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Figure 38: Reasons for not considering having solar panels installed, May 2018

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Abbreviations

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Trade associations

British Photovoltaic Association

Energy Networks Association

Energy Industries Council

Energy UK

SolarPower Europe

European Solar Thermal Industry Federation

Micropower Council

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem)

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets - Scotland (Ofgem Scotland)

Renewable Energy Association

Solar Trade Association

Trade magazines

Renewable Energy Focus

Solar Business Focus

Solar UK

Solar International

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Trade events

All-Energy Exhibition & Conference Aberdeen

Future Resource Expo

Solar & Storage Live

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