

Solar Panels: Inc Impact of COVID-19 - UK - October 2020

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“Whilst COVID-19 is not expected to present a big risk to the UK solar PV market in the medium term, a protracted economic recovery would hit solar PV demand in residential and commercial sectors.”

– **Claudia Preedy, Senior B2B Analyst**

This report looks at the following areas:

- **The impact of COVID-19 on the UK solar panels market in the short, medium and long term**
- **How the market has performed over the last five years**
- **Key drivers for domestic roof-top, commercial and large-scale, ground-mounted solar PV deployment**
- **Key market trends across the solar panels market**
- **How the market is expected to develop over the next five years**

Deployment of residential solar PV has plummeted since 2015, when installations peaked at 523MW. In contrast, just 92MW of residential solar PV capacity was deployed in 2019. The significant drop in deployments since 2015 reflects cuts to the Feed-in-Tariffs scheme in 2016 and the closure of the scheme altogether in April 2019.

COVID-19 has disrupted solar PV deployment between March and May 2020, but solar PV installs have since returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. A protracted economic recovery and rising unemployment would exert a downward pressure on solar PV demand in the residential and commercial sectors in the short and medium term.

While conditions in the UK solar PV market are set to remain challenging, MBD anticipates sustained annual growth in solar PV installations over the next five years. Further cost reductions in solar technology, co-location with increasingly cheaper storage and a rise in PPA-backed projects are set to be the key drivers for future solar PV deployment.

In the residential sector, the increased take-up of electric vehicles is expected to drive the solar-plus-storage market in the medium to longer term, as the combination of EVs and batteries can boost the economics of rooftop solar.

In the commercial solar PV market, the more widespread adoption of corporate “net zero carbon” strategies should help drive solar PV deployment.

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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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Residential rooftop market to be driven by solar-plus-storage systems and growing EV market

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EvoEnergy

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