

Solar Power - UK - 2023

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This report looks at the following areas:

- Historic market development
- The revival of the rooftop solar PV market on the back of high electricity costs
- Drivers and challenges in the rooftop and ground-mount sectors
- How the market is expected to develop over the next five years

In 2022, new solar PV additions surged by 84% (658GW), with the market remaining buoyant in 2023. According to official BEIS data, there were over 1.3 million installations in the UK by the end of April 2023, with a total capacity of almost 15GW.

Recent growth has been largely driven by the global energy crisis which led to soaring electricity costs. This has sparked strong interest in the residential and commercial sectors to generate and self-consume electricity. A combination of other drivers also contributed to the growth, including the stabilisation of supply chains as the world recovered from the pandemic and improved product availability as new manufacturing capacities came online. Solar PV modules have also seen a significant price reduction over the last decade, making them more affordable, despite a temporary rise in module costs over 2021 and 2022.

While the UK solar PV market has been revived, a number of challenges remain which hamper stronger deployment. These include ongoing shortages of skilled installers, barriers in the planning system and grid constraints, with developers facing network connection delays of up to 15 years. Rising capital costs may also slow down the number of new utility-scale projects in the near term.

Despite these challenges, UK solar PV deployment is set for sustained growth. This is fuelled by increased interest in self-generation amid high energy prices and the decarbonisation agenda across the public, commercial and residential sectors. The accelerated shift to renewables generation (with a government target of 70GW of solar PV by 2035), further cost reductions and



"Sustained strong solar PV deployment is forecast for the coming years, with all main market segments (ground-mount, residential and non-residential roof-top solar PV) in high growth mode."

- Claudia Preedy, Principal Analyst

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higher efficiency PV modules, co-location with increasingly cheaper storage, a rise in PPA-backed projects and other innovative finance options are set to be the key drivers for future solar PV deployment.



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