

PLANNING FOR SOLAR INFRASTRUCTURE 2026

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Ahead of [Planning for Solar Infrastructure](#) (taking place on 15 January, London) **Tim Warham, Senior Policy Advisor Department for Energy Security and Net Zero** shares the next steps the solar industry need to take in the next five years to meet 2030 clean power targets.

WHAT STEPS DOES THE SOLAR INDUSTRY NEED TO TAKE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO MEET THE 2030 CLEAN POWER TARGETS?

The Government is committed to achieving clean power by 2030. This is an ambitious mission, which has enormous potential to create good jobs, protect billpayers, ensure energy security, and reduce our exposure to volatile fossil fuel markets. The scale of this challenge is such that, as part of the rollout of various renewable energy sources, we will need to see significant increases in the deployment of both ground-mounted and rooftop solar.

HOW CAN DEVELOPERS MOVE SOLAR PROJECTS FORWARD WHILE NAVIGATING PLANNING POLICY CHANGES?

The Government has been working hard to ensure that the planning system works for renewables developers and for communities. Changes are consulted on and introduced on suitable timescales, whether under the National Planning Policy Framework or Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project planning regimes.

HOW CAN THE UK'S SOLAR SECTOR EXPAND AT SCALE WITH LIMITED LAND AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT?

The Government does not believe that the accelerated roll-out of solar generation poses a threat to food security. The total area used by solar farms is very small. Even in the most ambitious scenarios, less than 1% of the UK's agricultural land would be occupied by solar farms.

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