

# PLANNING FOR SOLAR INFRASTRUCTURE 2024

11 JANUARY | LONDON



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Ahead of [Planning for Solar Infrastructure](#) (taking place on 11 January, London) **Tim Warham, Senior Policy Advisor at Department of Energy Security and Net Zero** shares insight on the benefits and challenges facing solar, and some guidance to solar developers.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SOLAR IN THE UK? HOW CAN THESE BE EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATED THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

Solar power is the least-cost way to generate electricity in this country and is totally renewable and hugely popular. Solar and farming can be complementary, supporting each other financially, environmentally and through shared use of land. Rooftop solar has the extra benefit of generating electricity where it is consumed and radically reduces energy bills.

## WHAT CHALLENGES DO SOLAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CURRENTLY FACE? HOW CAN THESE BE OVERCOME?

Solar projects face challenges in securing planning permission, connecting to the network, raising finance, growing the supply chain and skills. Government set-up the Solar Taskforce to solve these challenges and meet our ambition of a five-fold increase in solar by 2035.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOLAR DEVELOPERS SEEKING TO NAVIGATE THE CONSENTING PROCESS IN THE UK?

Both the local and national planning systems are carefully designed to balance competing interests and opinions and deliver robust, reasonable decisions. Laws and regulations are kept under review and Government seeks to streamline and improve the system in coming years. As an example, Permitted Development Rights are being reformed to increase the scope of developments that don't need planning permission at all.

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