

Latest policy on solar power stations

Are solar farms covered by a national policy statement?

Although solar farms are not covered in the existing suite of National Policy Statements, the draft National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure covers solar farms at the scale of nationally significant infrastructure. The draft National Policy Statements are currently undergoing Parliamentary scrutiny.

Do solar farms need planning permission?

usually requires planning permission. Depending on their size, solar farms will either require planning permission from the local planning authority (LPA) or from the Secretary of State for Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ): Solar farms with a generating capacity below 50 megawatts (MW) fall under the remit of the

Are solar farms a 'critical national priority'?

The Secretary of State will decide applications for large-scale solar farms in line with energy national policy statements. These were updated in January 2024. They now state that the development of low-carbon infrastructure, such as solar farms, is a 'critical national priority'.

Can solar power help decarbonise the UK energy sector?

Co-written by Matthew Fox and Toby Yeates of Pinsent Masons. The central role envisaged for solar power generation in supporting the decarbonisation of the UK energy sector is reflected in a draft revised planning policy designed to shape decision making on major renewable energy projects.

Do solar farms need development consent?

Solar farms with a generating capacity above 50 MW need development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, because they are nationally significant infrastructure projects' (NSIPs). Planning is a devolved matter.

Does government support solar?

It sets out that government is supportive of solar that is "co-located [footnote 80] with other functions (for example, agriculture, onshore wind generation, or storage) to maximise the efficiency of land use".

The Planning Act 2008 changed the role of local authorities in the new planning regime with particular regard to the development consent process for new nuclear power stations.

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