



# Powering Up Britain

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Net Zero Growth Plan & Energy  
Security Plan



On 30 March 2023, Government released plans to enhance and protect the country's energy security, seize economic opportunities of the net zero transition and deliver on net zero commitments.

1. Powering up Britain – [Main summary](#)
2. Powering up Britain – [Net Zero Growth Plan document](#)
3. Powering up Britain – [Energy Security Plan](#)

Following the publication of the government's documents, SEUK issued [this press release](#).

## General Overview

The plans strongly recognise the importance of solar deployment at all scales in decarbonising the power sector and delivering net zero more widely. The Government's commitment to 70GW by 2035 was re-stated and reaffirmed with the announcement that a 'solar taskforce', designed to further enable the delivery of the solar target and publish a solar roadmap in 2024.

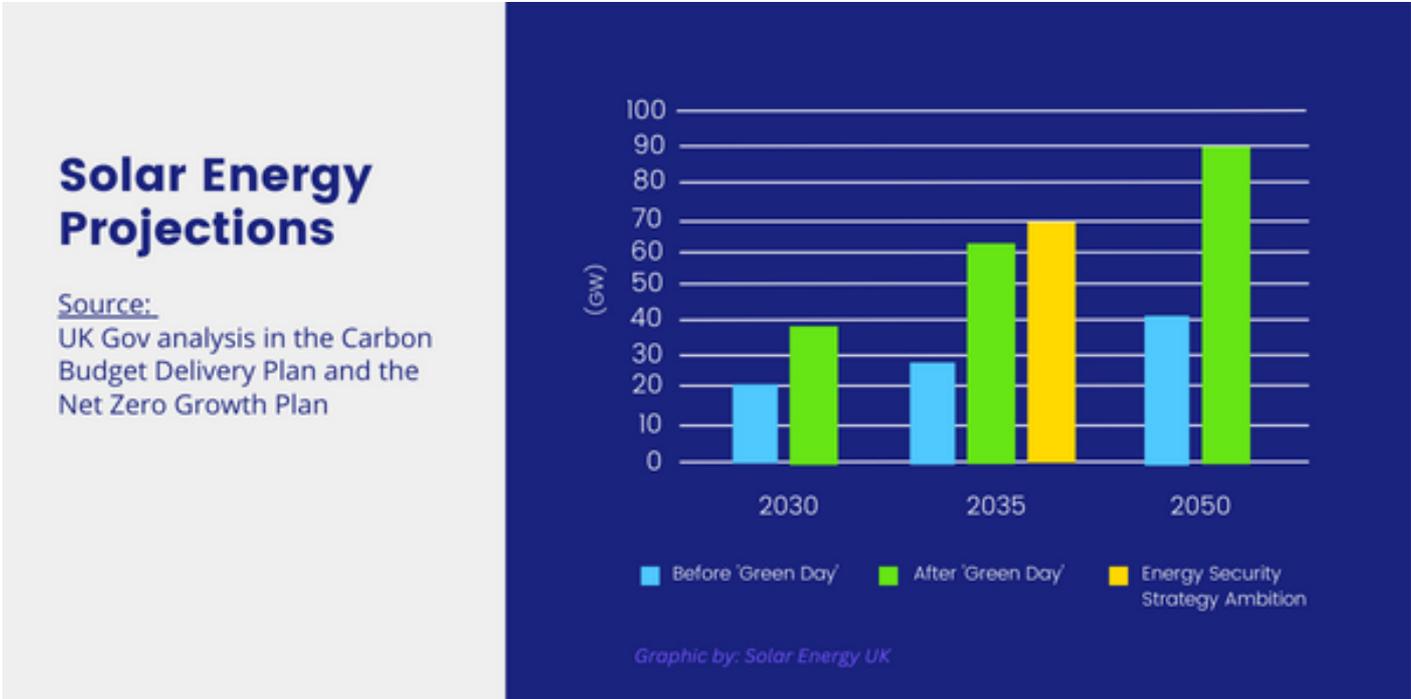
On grid infrastructure and access, the Government has committed to publishing an action plan this year to reduce the development time for transmission network projects and accelerate electricity network connections.

The language on utility scale solar in the context of planning and land use is positive and welcomed. The net-zero growth and energy security plans reaffirm previous ministerial commitments that agricultural land classification will not be changed. Support for groundmount solar is more explicit than in previous Government documentation.

Both residential and commercial rooftop solar continues to be endorsed by Government. The documents allude to maximising the deployment of rooftop solar on commercial properties and simplifying the planning process. Rooftop solar was also referenced positively regarding the forthcoming changes to domestic and commercial building standards. The Government also recognised the need to drive onsite renewable power generation through technologies such as solar. Solar Energy UK will continue to lobby Government for a firmer commitment to solar within the building standards. To drive the uptake of residential solar, Government announced it was working to facilitate low-cost finance for homes and small business premises.

Solar Energy UK will continue to work closely with DESNZ ministers, civil servants and wider government departments on all matters relating to solar.

An accompanying analysis reckons that the measures outlined in the package will be enough to almost meet Solar Energy UK’s target of 40GW by 2030. However, the expectation is that further efforts will be needed to secure the Energy Security Strategy’s ambition to have 70GW in place by 2035.



## High-Level Analysis

- **Taskforce:** Government and industry to establish a joint Solar Taskforce and publish a solar roadmap for 70GW by 2035. The roadmap will be published in 2024.
- **Routes to market:** Commitment to annual Contracts for Difference (CfD) auctions. Initial budget of £205 million set for CfD Auction Round 5 (down from £285m in Round 4).
- **Facilitating access to low-cost finance:** “To meet the demand for rooftop solar, the Government is working to facilitate low-cost finance from retail lenders for homes and small business premises, aligning with recommendations in the Independent Review of Net Zero.”
- **Planning –** Fast track consenting scheme for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) to be developed, reducing the maximum formal examination period to twelve months. Only available for ‘certain’ NSIPs which can meet defined quality standards. The Government has launched a consultation on the proposals for fasttrack consenting, including proposed quality standards.
- **Land use/Agriculture/ALC:** Positive language highlighting how solar and agriculture can complement each other. The Government has reconfirmed the position that it will not be making changes to agricultural land classification to not constrain solar deployment.
- **Food production/Security:** “We consider that meeting energy security and climate change goals is urgent and of critical importance to the country and that these goals can be achieved together with maintaining food security for the UK. We encourage deployment of solar technology that delivers environmental benefits, with consideration for ongoing food production or environmental improvement.
- **Building regulations:** “Government will explore how it can continue to drive onsite renewable electricity generation, such as through rooftop solar where appropriate in new homes and buildings.”
- **Permitted development rights:** “Our proposals seek to simplify planning processes for larger commercial rooftop installations and introduce a new permitted development right for solar canopies on non-domestic car parks, enabling more solar installations to benefit from the flexibilities and planning freedoms permitted development rights offer.”
- **Supporting Green Skills:** “Industry has also committed to working with DfE to propose new Skills Bootcamps in FY 2023-24 aimed at addressing immediate workforce skills needs in key low carbon sectors.”
- **Investment:** Government seems to be acknowledging recent concerns regarding investment in renewables, stating that government is “responding to feedback from investors on the need for government to provide clarity on how we are making new net zero technologies and sectors investable.”
- **Grid Connections:** Government commitment to “publish an action plan to accelerate connections” this summer.

- **Ofgem:** There was a re-commitment to consult on Ofgem's Strategy and Policy Statement.
- **Storage:** The Government will finance short-and long-duration storage via the UK Infrastructure Bank.
- **Transmission Network:** Government has launched a consultation into community benefit provision for electricity transmission network infrastructure.

Alongside the publication of Powering up Britain (energy security plan and net zero growth plan) additional documents were published (as below). We have highlighted those most relevant to solar and will review them in due course.

- **Powering Up Britain – The Energy Security Plan**
- **Powering Up Britain – The Net Zero Growth Plan**
- **NZGP annexe – Government response to Net Zero Review**
- NZGP annexe – Technical Annex
- **NZGP annexe – Carbon Budget Delivery Plan**
- **NZGP annexe – Government response to the CCC Progress Report**
- **2030 Green Finance Strategy**
- **2030 Strategic Framework for International Climate and Nature Action**
- **UK International Climate Finance Strategy**
- Consultation on addressing carbon leakage risk to support decarbonisation
- **Net Zero Research & Innovation Delivery Plan**
- **National Policy Statement**
- Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme announcement
- Launch of floating offshore wind manufacturing investment scheme
- **Consultation on the Clean Heat Market Mechanism**
- Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition
- Launch of the draft scheme guidance and expressions of interest in the competition
- Patrick Vallance's Pro Innovation Regulation of Technologies Review: Green Industries report and HMG response
- **Government Response to Secure, Smart Energy Systems**
- **Strategy and Policy Statement for Energy**
- Consultation on the draft SPS
- Power Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) Government response to the consultation on the power BECCS business model Cluster Sequencing Process Phase-2: Track-1 Project Negotiation List
- Cluster Sequencing for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS): Track-2 guidance
- Notice on gov.uk announcing the shortlist for the first electrolytic hydrogen allocation round (HAR1)
- Notice on gov.uk announcing the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund (NZHF) strands 1&2 competition winners
- **Consultation on Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure**