

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for solar power in the UK

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 14th January 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Ffiona Hesketh, Deputy Director, Capital Schemes Policy, Net Zero Buildings, Domestic, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- 9.05 **Solar power in the UK - the Solar Taskforce's recommendations and next steps**
Chris Hewett, Chief Executive, Solar Energy UK; and Joint Chair, Solar Taskforce, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing delivery of the UK Solar Roadmap**
priorities for implementation | planning reform and integration with local land use plans | resourcing and statutory timelines for planning departments | balancing land use with biodiversity and food security | clarity on Best and Most Versatile land and site prioritisation | rooftop, brownfield and balcony deployment | community energy and engagement | expectations for community benefits and local participation
Holly Hoban, Energy Analyst, Regen
Alex Minhinick, Partner, Burges Salmon
Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England
Jackie Copley, Campaigns Lead, Campaign to Protect Rural England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Regulatory priorities and coordination for accelerated solar deployment**
Dr Sugandha Srivastav, Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, British Academy; and Senior Research Fellow, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Ffiona Hesketh, Deputy Director, Capital Schemes Policy, Net Zero Buildings, Domestic, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Mike Blanch, Renewables Specialist, Energy, Department for Business and Trade
- 11.00 **Ethical sourcing, domestic innovation, and supply chain resilience in UK solar manufacturing**
Andrew Moore, Founder and CEO, UKSOL
- 11.10 **Enablers for scaling up solar delivery**
investment frameworks and supporting market confidence | implications of CfD terms and auction design | procurement and delivery models | role of GBE and coordination with the public estate | strengthening domestic manufacturing and innovation | import policy, ethical sourcing and supply chain resilience | workforce availability, accreditation and training pathways | ensuring delivery capacity across regions
Mark Wakeford, Chair, National Federation of Builders; and Member, Global Solar Council
Dr Laura Miranda, Chief Communications and Sustainability Officer, Oxford PV
Maria Dutton, Consumer Finance Lead, Green Finance Institute
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Preparing the grid for increased solar deployment**
transition to the First Ready, First Connected model | sequencing and prioritising projects | regional capacity constraints and grid connection timelines | coordination across Ofgem, ESO, transmission and distribution operators | investment pipeline and network resilience planning | flexible grid connections and queue management | integration of storage and flexibility to manage curtailment | alignment between grid readiness and planning progression
Ed Birkett, New Projects Director, Low Carbon
Benjamin Godfrey, Director, Distribution System Operations, National Grid Electricity Distribution
Nina Vidon, Head, Onshore Renewables, WSP
Lisa Woolhouse, Head, Energy Transition, SSEN Transmission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for solar energy in the UK**
Daniel Cox, Deputy Director, Renewable Electricity Strategy, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Mike Blanch, Renewables Specialist, Energy, Department for Business and Trade
Jessica Lear, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum