



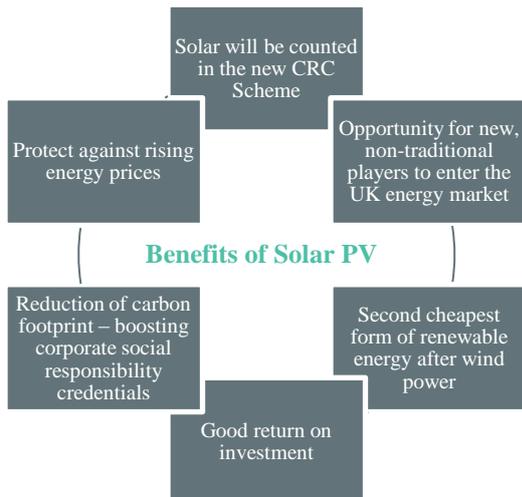
Solar PV

A sustainable source of renewable energy

Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology is a global industry and is one of the technologies underpinning the UK Government's renewable energy strategy which is to cut emissions in 2050 by 80 per cent. from 1990 levels and to generate 15 per cent. of energy demand from renewables by 2020.

SOLAR PV AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS

The solar PV market now has a stable long-term incentive regime to support it, with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) having recently set out its final decisions on the Feed-in Tariff rates and the Renewables Obligation Banding Review. The Feed-in Tariff scheme applies a system of degradation to tariff rates, whilst the RO Banding created a distinction between building-mounted and ground-mounted schemes, with levels of support that are an improvement on the levels proposed in the September 2012 consultation (but still not as generous as the proposals in the RO Banding Review). The solar industry believes that whilst the level of support is "tough but workable" it will continue to encourage the installation of solar projects; the industry is optimistic about the future of solar PV in the UK, and the revised support levels will bring stability to the market.



"Our proposals for solar projects on commercial buildings will encourage businesses to consider solar PV as a serious option for meeting their power needs." – Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Edward Davey

HOW WE CAN HELP

Walker Morris is one of the UK's leading law firms advising in this sector. Our Renewables, Energy & Resources Group is a multi-disciplinary team advising solar farm developers and land owners on both ground and roof mounted solar projects. Our experience includes all aspects of project development, from site acquisition and planning, panel supply, installation, financing, FiT/RO eligibility through to power purchase and grid connection. Our lawyers are able to provide a complete lifecycle approach to cover every

aspect of the project from inception to decommissioning. Members of our Group have advised on large solar PV installation projects, including the installation contracts and establishing framework agreements.

Our Group includes Stephen Cirell, who is a consultant with 30-years experience in the public sector, both in-house, as senior partner in an international law firm, and as director of the Green Cornwall Programme. He specialises in renewable energy and low carbon projects for local authorities and public bodies. He is author of *A Guide to Solar PV Projects in Local Government and the Public Sector* published in 2012.

Examples of our recent experience include the following:

Planning/environmental

— successfully securing planning permission for a solar project in a designated Special Landscape Area.

Property/site acquisition

— on behalf of a leading UK solar installer, drafting and negotiating with the Land Registry a standard form of lease for residential properties.

Project delivery

- advising the developer of one of the largest proposed ground-mounted solar farms in the UK (installed capacity of more than 20MW)
- providing advice and drafting construction contracts and associated documentation for a ground-mounted 5MW solar farm in the south west of England
- advising two local authorities on procurement arrangements and a framework agreement and turnkey contract for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of roof-mounted solar panels on non-residential properties. Advising on the Feed-in Tariff scheme and DNO connection issues
- advising a regeneration entity which installed solar panels on third-party properties. Advising on the various forms of bespoke installer contract and roof licence required, the impacts of the Feed-in Tariff scheme, grid connection and the position on VAT.

Grid connection & power purchase

- advising a developer on various grid connection issues, including advice on the relevant DNO's interactivity process for connection applications and drafting a novel grid connection sharing agreement with the occupier of a neighbouring site to ensure a robust yet cheaper grid connection
- advising a large licenced energy supplier on various power purchase agreements.

WALKER MORRIS

Walker Morris is uniquely recognised for its strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straightforward advice. With national and international reach, the depth of our expertise and skill assures clients that all their needs can be met by one firm. We make it our priority to understand the dynamics of your business and appreciate that in today's business world, you need lawyers who are willing to offer support and advice beyond the 'legals'.

We are instinctively commercial and our goal is to add value at all stages of our relationship with you. We offer inquisitive people, who ask all the right questions; who work tirelessly on your behalf; and who work effectively as members of your own team to help you achieve results.

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