Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
Next steps for solar power in the UK
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 25th February 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER ENERGY ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 ***Solar Roadmap* implementation - assessing progress and next steps**
Olivia Johnson, Head, Solar and Marine, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Project pipelines for major solar infrastructure - investment, development and construction**
Jonathan Selwyn, Managing Director, Bluefield Development

9.40 **Siting, land use and planning - priorities for utility-scale solar**
mplications of the Land Use Framework and spatial energy planning for solar siting | brownfield and industrial land, best and most versatile agricultural land and the Green Belt | competing land use priorities, food security, landscapes and environmental outcomes | implications for landowners and tenant farmers | co-location, agrivoltaics and grazing | cumulative impacts and respective roles of rooftop and ground-mounted solar | community engagement, benefit schemes, local discounts and shared ownership | biodiversity net gain requirements for NSIPs | planning and consenting reforms, including judicial review | consenting costs, project timelines, investment certainty and viability
Senior representative, agriculture
Senior representative, nature recovery
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, community energy

10.00 Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Planning and consenting for solar - reform, decision-making and project timelines**
Senior representative, planning
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 **Public investment in solar deployment - priorities and the role of private finance**
Senior representative, public investment

11.20 **Public investment in solar deployment - funding priorities and wider investment sources**
Senior representative, grid

11.30 **UK solar industry development - investment, supply chains, skills and installation capacity**
growth in UK installation capacity and demand | commercial and public sector rooftop deployment | network capacity and the role of Great British Grid | project viability, public and private investment and financing options | AR8, proposed Wholesale CfD and corporate power purchase agreements | Gate 2 reform and implications for delayed or excluded projects | storage co-location, flexibility markets and curtailment | UK manufacturing, supply chains, import reliance and energy security | ethical sourcing and supply-chain assurance | end-of-life management and recycling | workforce capacity, installer competency, installation quality and training
Senior representative, installation
Senior representative, supply chain
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, storage
Senior representative, skills

11.55 Questions and comments from the floor

12.20 **Consumer access to domestic solar - affordability, uptake and widening participation**
Future Homes Standard and on-site generation requirements | EPC reform and the Home Energy Model | plug-in solar take-up, product safety and consumer protection | household adoption, installation costs and expected savings | grants, reduced-interest loans and return of 5% VAT from April 2027 | Warm Homes Plan support for low-income households | solar and batteries in social housing, including the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund | access for renters and residents of flats | consumer advice, installer standards and confidence in installation quality | financing options and widening participation
Senior representative, consumers
Senior representative, construction
Senior representative, finance
Senior representative, technology

13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum