Solar PV Panels

What are they and how do they work?

Solar PV (photovoltaic) panels are a renewable energy technology that generate electricity from the sun. The panels are most efficient when installed on a south-facing roof.

Benefits

- Direct savings to electricity bills - less dependency on energy companies.
- Can still generate electricity on a cloudy day!
- Possibility to claim the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) to sell excess electricity back to the National Grid.
- Increased Energy Performance Rating and potential boost to property market value.
- Reduction of fossil-fuel based energy consumption and CO_2 emissions.
- Low maintenance requirements.
- Life-span of approximately 20-25 years.

Things to consider

- May not be a permitted development on a listed building. Could require planning permission in a conservation area – check with your Local Authority.
- Will need freeholder permission if property is shared ownership.
- Often not feasible for installation to be funded for flats or maisonettes.
- Ownership of the panels is transferred upon sale of the property.
- Arrays with an inverter larger than 3.6kW will require a DNO application – this can take 8-12 weeks for approval.
- The inverter is likely to need replacing within the lifespan of the panels.

Funding Expectations with Action Surrey

Funded: Surveys, panels and mounting equipment, labour costs, electrical commissioning, inverters, scaffolding. Lodgement with Trustmark and MCS.

Not funded: Battery storage*, hot water diverters (e.g. Eddi), planning permission applications (for conservation areas). Specific models will not necessarily be funded. Additional requirements should be discussed with installer.

*This may change later as the new version of RdSAP is released later in 2023.

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