

55558 Solar Energy Usage and Future Plans

I would like to request information regarding your current and planned usage of solar energy across your estate.

Please could you provide responses to the following questions:

Governance & Responsibility

Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?

If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Energy and Sustainability Manager.

Current Solar Deployment

- a. How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?

There are 50 arrays on Corporate Properties.

- b. What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?

2,200 kW.

- c. What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

1.2%.

Investment & Strategy

- a. Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?

Yes.

- b. If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

Council Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) –

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6005>

Please refer to Item 7.3.

Solar Photovoltaic Installation Report –

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=7443>

Please refer to Item 8.4.

Solar and Net Zero Commitments

- a. Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?

Yes.

- b. If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

These are reported via the CERP updates referenced in A3b above.

Future Plans

- a. Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

Yes, around 50 further arrays.

- b. Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

Projects are at different stages; some at tender and some have not progressed past desktop studies.

Procurement & Partnerships

- a. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?

Yes, a third-party organisation - Edinburgh Community Solar Coop.

- b. Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

Yes.

Battery Storage

- a. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?

Yes.

- b. Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

No.

Funding

Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Yes.

Barriers

What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Funding.