Solar Power (PV)

Free energy from the sun! How do you catch it?

Solar energy can be up to 150W per sq m in strong sunlight. Even on dull days useful energy is collected.

Typical domestic systems are rated 1-3kW and require 7-20 sq m.

You can expect to capture about 850 units (kWh) a year for each 1kW of installed capacity. Typical household consumption is 3,000 – 6,000 units a year.

Budget around £6,500 per kW of capacity all-inclusive.

Within the 25 years' typical lifetime of the equipment you can expect the value of the energy you capture to rise at least **30-fold** in real terms – that's £3 per unit!

And don't forget that you can **SELL** your surplus power to your electricity supplier, as well as claiming ROC credits worth around 4p/kWh for substantial amounts.

You will need:

- a south-facing roof pitch or any horizontal surface, substantially free from shadow all year round
- a mounting framework to suit the surface
- solar collectors (many sizes available)

and either:

- an approved invertor for grid connection, or
- a charge controller and battery pack

Substantial government grants are available if conditions are met. Planning Permission may be required in some circumstances.

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