



**INSPIRING CHANGE TODAY**

THAT PROTECTS FUTURE GENERATIONS

# COMMERCIAL SOLAR PANELS AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE



Business resilience has always been a key concern for businesses, but with recent events, it has never been a higher priority.



**LOW CARBON**  
ENERGY



**The IEA officially states solar to be the cheapest electricity in history, having become cheaper than coal and gas in most major countries.**

**Not only does solar provide significant lifetime cost savings for organisations, but also helps them reach their target of achieving Net Zero.**

**The Covid-19 pandemic has wrought seismic changes which have presented the ultimate test of resilience for countless businesses, and sadly not all of them have survived. For those who have been in a position to withstand the initial economic blow, the whole experience has served to re-emphasise the importance of business resilience. It's a concept with many strands, but energy is one of the most crucial ones, and that's where commercial solar panels can help.**

While historically most businesses have relied on the National Grid to meet their energy needs, commercial solar panels offer an alternative by providing the ability to generate a clean, uninterrupted power supply right there on-site. The technology underpinning solar panels has made huge strides in recent years, and the steadily accruing level of investment in the sector means that they're becoming cheaper year on year, making them increasingly viable even to smaller businesses.

One of the biggest advantages of generating your own energy on-site is, of course, the protection it affords from steadily rising energy prices and peak period prices, as you can gradually lower your reliance on the National Grid.

They also provide immense value to your business by providing some degree of immunity from market volatility, the likes of which we've all seen plenty of in 2020. Though the recent development of several vaccines suggest some semblance of a return to normality on the horizon, Covid-19 continues to pose a whole raft of challenges to businesses across the globe. Commercial solar panels can provide some welcome peace of mind when it comes to your energy bills, allowing you to concentrate on the more pressing issues on your agenda.

The emergence of the pandemic has highlighted a great many unpleasant truths about our global economy and society, and one of the biggest by far has been the fragility of a fossil fuel economy. By mid-April, the global price of oil had plummeted to such a degree that producers had resorted to paying traders \$40 a barrel to take it off their hands.



It would be somewhat disingenuous to pretend that the renewables market was entirely unaffected by this, but there are stark differences in terms of scale. Covid-19 has slowed the growth of renewables for the first time in 20 years, but the world is set to have added 167GW to its global capacity by the end of this year.

For perspective, that's more than the total power capacity of North America and Europe combined. In North America, in fact, 2020 marks the first time that renewables have ever overtaken coal.

While Covid-19 has certainly left its mark on the sector, renewables have made record contributions to national grids across the globe, and so have indisputably proven their worth under truly unprecedented circumstances.

Countries around the world are focusing their efforts on a green recovery, seizing upon the global interruption in carbon emissions and using it as an opportunity to fundamentally restructure the way they operate, building towards a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future.

In fact, many investors and customers are now starting to expect it as a given from businesses and governments alike.

In the wake of the recent events, renewable energy assets are currently set to experience a spike in demand from investors.

The motivation for this is twofold: first of all a desire to make sustainable investments, and second of all to increase resilience against the pandemic-induced downturn.

Solar is now economically viable in the UK without any form of government support. The UK is set to significantly grow its new solar generation capacity over the next few years.

The events of the ongoing pandemic have proven that business resilience is no longer a simple advantage, a 'nice-to-have' – but an essential priority if you're going to remain competitive in today's climate.

The UK is better positioned than many other countries to transform its energy sector. We have one of the cleanest and most innovative energy systems in the world, with thriving investment in renewable technologies like commercial solar panels, all of which provide a strong platform for us to make the transition to a 'Net Zero' economy.

Net Zero refers to striking a balance between the emissions a given entity produces, and the emissions that it removes from the atmosphere. If the emissions produced is equal to the emissions removed, then that entity can be truthfully said to have achieved Net Zero, or gone 'carbon neutral' – these two terms mean the same thing.

If you want your business to achieve Net Zero, you have to be investing in techniques and technologies to remove as many greenhouse emissions from the atmosphere as you put into it. In practical terms, this essentially involves cutting greenhouse emissions (particularly carbon dioxide) to as close to zero as possible.

When businesses shut down and cars stopped moving, we had a glimpse of what a low carbon world would be like. Businesses are now planning on orienting themselves towards their vision for a low-emissions world. But while reducing emissions is a great goal to set, it's also quite vague. For it to be achievable, it needs to be specific, and that's where Net Zero comes in.

It gives businesses a specific target to aim for, a benchmark to reach so that they know their sustainability efforts are working.





**Some of the main reasons why solar panels are so popular in the UK include:**

- + Solar panels offer significant cost savings on electricity bills
- + The Smart Export Guarantee lets owners profit from excess electricity generated
- + Solar is environmentally friendly and sustainable, helping to meet green targets
- + Modern shoppers are more becoming environmentally-conscious
- + The price of solar is dropping
- + Solar creates jobs and reduces UK reliance on energy imports
- + Solar panels are easy and cheap to maintain
- + It provides a useful source of energy to customers 'off-the-grid'

Solar power is the most abundant energy source on Earth, and though we've evolved the technology to capture it, there's still so much room for this technology to advance. Every ounce of oil, every lump of coal, and every cubic foot of natural gas could be left in the ground if we could capture and store 100% of one hour's worth of solar energy each year. That's the scale of the opportunity before us, and one that humanity is making steady progress towards achieving.

Once we come out of the other side of this global crisis, we'll see what kind of world emerges. Hopefully it's one that we can all make better, brighter and safer for ourselves, and for future generations – starting with sustainability.

So with all that in mind, it's no wonder the future's looking bright for the UK solar energy industry. And if you'd like to take advantage of some of these benefits for yourself, we're here to help.

Here at Low Carbon, our experts have over 30 years of combined experience behind us in helping you save on business costs, and profit from having cleaner energy. To find out how we can help you, feel free to give us a call today on 01282 421 489.