



# Solar farms





# Solarcentury is a leading solar farm developer and the UK's most experienced contractor of ground-mounted solar installations.

**What does a solar farm mean for you, the landowner?** A solar farm delivers high yields, often higher than farming the land. From your side, it couldn't be more straight forward – you simply lease the land for 25 years, and we handle the permitting, design, build and maintenance of the project.

With government ambitions of 20 GWp of solar energy by 2020 and financial incentives currently in place, now is a great time to lock in 25 year returns on your land.





## The benefits

Solar farms are the quickest and the lowest impact route to creating new electricity capacity. They bring financial returns, energy stability and reduce carbon emissions.

- Solar is an unlimited, low risk, and secure source of energy with predictable year on year yields. It is home grown and green, helping to secure our energy future by reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels. A 50 acre site typically produces enough electricity to power 2,500 homes.
- By choosing solar you show your commitment to clean, renewable energy, which can benefit how your business is perceived in these competitive times. What's more, you'll be supporting British installers and the UK economy in the tough economic climate.
- Sitting low on the ground, with no moving parts and little noise, the planning stage for solar farms doesn't throw out too many surprises, and there's little ongoing maintenance required.
- An experienced development team and a short construction schedule means we can move from exclusivity on land to a farm generating energy within 9 months. The majority of the construction takes place in under 3 months.
- The biggest threat to wildlife is climate change and habitat destruction. By temporarily taking land out of intensive agricultural production for 25 years, solar farms can offer considerable opportunities to promote wildlife.
- By using power from the sun, we are reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The Earth has already crossed a damage threshold of carbon emissions that we cannot reverse (400ppm in May 2013), so we must act to limit this impact.

## The financials

The landowner will receive an annual rental (rpi index linked) payment in exchange for the use of the land.

Solar farms are supported by the Government's ROCs (Renewable Obligation Certificates) scheme which benefits the owner of the solar farm. The Government's commitment to generate 15% of the UK's energy from renewable resources by 2020 resulted in the introduction of ROCs in 2002. This Obligation is currently the main financial mechanism by which the Government incentivises the development of large-scale renewable electricity generation.



Horam solar farm, East Sussex

# How it all works

## Development of the farm

Solarcentury is involved from the start of the development process, all the way through to the operation and maintenance, giving you peace of mind and a smooth project.

Starting with a feasibility study and a detailed site planning appraisal, we take care of DNO liaison, screening opinion, detailed modelling and scheme design, providing the finance, and preparing and submitting the planning application including liaising with the local community. With teams that include some of Europe's most experienced solar designers and engineers, we will make sure the planning's watertight.

## Engineering, procurement and construction

You can count on a safe and smooth-running construction, delivered on time and on budget. You will benefit from our superior in-house engineering and highly experienced project managers, and an excellent safety record. We also follow sustainable construction processes when on site to minimise waste and energy consumption.

We can offer a full range of performance-guaranteed solar technologies, thanks to our many world-class suppliers. We also bring our own IP products and mounting designs to the table, and our own trusted network of subcontractors.

## Operation and maintenance

Once the solar farm is up and running, we offer a full O&M service in a 25-year contract. This can be flexible to suit your approach and budget, but can include 24-hour remote performance monitoring, monthly, semi-annual and annual reactive and preventative maintenance, regular reporting, and component warranty management. We also manage the ecology side, with meadow and hedgerow management plans. In short, it's all taken care of.



Eynsham solar farm, Oxfordshire

## The land

For a site to be considered, here are some of the criteria we require:

**Grid connection** With a 66kV/33kV/11kV line close to the site.

**Designation** Outside AONBs, National Farms, SSSIs. We also consider the visual impact on your neighbours.

**Site access** Roads to allow for the construction vehicles and maintenance visits.

**Tilt and direction** Ideally level ground or a south facing slope.

# No substitute for experience

We are one of the world's most trusted, respected and long-standing solar companies.

Founded in 1998, we've been around since the early days of the solar industry and have been part of the evolution that has made solar PV the attractive investment it is today. We've put solar on more types of sites than any other company in the industry, and have won multiple awards for product innovation.

What's more, we're in it for the long-haul. This isn't just our business, it's our mission. Our commitment to making solar accessible is deep-rooted and long-term, and our solidly-established business is growing steadily worldwide.

With over 300MWp under our belt in total, we're the UK experts - in the last financial year alone we developed over 118MWp of solar farms.

All our customers benefit from our experience in terms of engineering quality, sheer breadth of deployment and absolute commitment to solar. When you choose Solarcentury, you know you're in very good hands.



In-house project management expertise



The world's largest solar bridge, London



In-house design specialists



Kenya's largest solar farm



# The community and ecology

When we're researching a site for a solar farm development, we're always careful to consider the local community and environment.

So much so, that we develop fewer than one in 100 of the possible sites.

While exploring a suitable area, we carry out a detailed feasibility process. We consider factors such as whether the site can be screened from view, so it doesn't affect the local landscape and character. We also look into any possible disruption and all our sites are screened by an ecologist.

We don't simply avoid ecological problems, we actively participate in improving the environment around the solar farms we build. We plant wildflower meadows, and are partnered with Habitat Aid and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to ensure the environment provided allows local wildlife and our threatened bumblebee to flourish.

During the planning process, we write to people living locally to let them know about the possible development and our plans for engagement during the planning phase. We'll also hold a local drop-in session so we can meet people face-to-face to explain the whole process. Finally, we create a web page for each proposed site, so everyone can see the full plans and contact us with questions at any time.



Saxley solar farm, Hampshire



At Chittering solar farm, Norfolk

## Find out more

Call

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Visit

[www.solarcentury.com](http://www.solarcentury.com)

Solarcentury is in business for a purpose

to make a big difference in the fight against climate change through widespread adoption of solar power.

We are a big believer in helping solar change our world for the better, and we contribute 5% of our net profits every year to SolarAid, the charity we founded, who aim to eradicate kerosene lamps from Africa by 2020.



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