

Solar Power Somerset

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Why Somerset is Going Solar

You know how they say "make hay while the sun shines"? Well, Somerset's 1,600 annual sunshine hours are making it the UK's unlikely solar power hotspot. With electricity prices jumping 150% since 2020, over 12,000 homes here have installed panels - that's 18% above the national average.

But wait, isn't Somerset better known for cider than clean energy? Turns out the county's mix of agricultural land and suburban rooftops creates perfect conditions. Farmers like James Wilkins near Glastonbury now use solar arrays to power cider presses while selling surplus energy back to the grid.

The Battery Storage Revolution

Here's where it gets interesting. Modern battery systems can store 90% of daytime solar generation for nighttime use. The new Tesla Powerwall installations across Somerset neighborhoods let households cut grid dependence by 60-70% annually.

A typical 4-bedroom home in Yeovil spends ?1,800/year on electricity. With solar panels and storage, that bill shrinks to ?400 while adding ?15,000 to the property value. No wonder 74% of local estate agents now highlight solar features in listings.

Solar Success in Taunton & Bridgwater

Taunton's Willow Park development offers proof of concept - 120 homes generating 310 MWh yearly through integrated solar roofs. That's enough to power 75 additional households! Meanwhile, Bridgwater's new recycling plant runs entirely on solar+storage, saving the council ?280,000 annually.

When Solar Meets Smart Grids

Western Power Distribution's pilot in Frome uses AI to balance solar inputs across 800 homes. During last month's heatwave, the system redirected surplus energy to charge EVs and community batteries - preventing blackouts despite record demand.

Your Solar Questions Answered

Q: How long until solar pays for itself in Somerset?

A: Most systems break even in 6-8 years, with 25+ year lifespans.

Q: Do panels work on cloudy days?

A: They still generate 10-25% capacity - crucial for UK weather!

Q: What about listed buildings?

A: New solar slates blend with traditional rooflines while meeting heritage requirements.

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