



**LOW CARBON**  
ENERGY

# Commercial solar panels & business resilience

2020

marked the first time that  
renewables have ever  
overtaken coal in N. America.



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

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

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.

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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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

# Your business needs to find ways of

- ✓ Reducing energy consumption
- ✓ Improving energy efficiency
- ✓ Taking steps to offset emissions

As experts in the design, installation and maintenance of extensive solar-powered systems, we use the sun's energy to power your present and preserve your future.

To see how we can empower your business to reduce your carbon footprint, increase your efficiencies and achieve net-zero targets, just get in touch with one of our experts.

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