



Solar makes sense? (Just ask Volvo, Tesco, Amazon and Google)

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At the end of 2019, something shifted.

It was barely noticeable at first. Conversations at the pub. Chatting with friends over dinner. Other people were starting conversations about sustainability. I've spent most of the last 10 years talking to anyone who will listen about renewable energy. But now I was the one listening.

In 2020, we all appear to be thinking a little more about our impact on the environment. And that can only be a good thing.

The same is true for businesses. Last year, Tesco announced plans to install 335,000 square metres (M²) of solar panels on nearly 200 of their sites, as part of their pledge to go carbon-neutral by 2030. Google, Amazon, Microsoft and other tech giants continued to make bold investments in renewable power. Even Shell launched a campaign to help drivers carbon-offset their vehicle emissions.

Major players are shifting their focus to sustainability. And they're not the only ones.

The business case

It's easy to understand why supermarkets, manufacturers and tech firms are making renewable power a major part of their roadmap for the future. These businesses have a big impact on our environment and, arguably, a responsibility to help protect it. As the Governor of the Bank of England put it last year, "the task [of achieving sustainability] is large, the window of opportunity is short and the risks are existential." But there are more positive reasons for firms to embrace the environment.

Sustainability makes good commercial sense. It wins customers. 88% of people want businesses to help them have a more positive environmental impact. This explains Volvo's latest marketing campaign, with the motto "No-one can do everything, but everyone can do something." Like nearly half of UK businesses, Volvo has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2040.

Renewables are also a valuable financial investment

While the cost of panels have plummeted since 2010, most businesses' energy bills have risen. 'Taking back the power' and generating their own energy therefore makes sense for many businesses.

Investing in renewable power-generation is also viable for those who won't use the power themselves – like the City of London, which is currently looking to invest in a 55 gigawatts (GW) 'solar portfolio'. Businesses can sell the excess energy they generate back to the Grid at a premium. Tesco is funding their plan to install solar panels in this way, by agreeing to sell a proportion of 'their' energy to EDF.

Join the club?

As a business owner, stories like these can be dispiriting. Big businesses have deeper pockets. They can invest in renewables; smaller businesses simply don't have the resources. Right? Wrong.

For the last ten years, Mole Energy has helped businesses of all sizes to install solar panels, either to power their operations or to act as a financial asset (and often, both.)

From dairy farms to garages, hospitals, country estates, ice-cream factories, wholesalers and plastic manufacturers, businesses across the UK have turned to Mole Energy to invest in renewables at a scale that suits them.

There's never been a better time to join them. While the cost of the solar panels is lower than ever before, energy bills are projected to increase in the short and medium-term across the UK. For many firms, 2020 could be the right time to add renewable energy to their balance sheet – whatever their business.

Solar for business - typical systems from Mole Energy

System size	Number of panels	Average cost installed	Bill saving year one	Pay back time (years)	Value @25 yrs (inc paying initial cost)	CO2 saving (kg per annum)
12kW	36	£12,500	£1,223	8.4	£46,565	6,982
30kW	92	£25,346	£3,132	7.0	£125,909	17,821
50kW	154	£39,651	£5,240	6.5	£213,317	30,028
100kW	308	£69,987	£10,385	5.9	£431,489	59,637

Based on south facing fibre cement roof at 12 degree pitch. Assumes 15p per unit electricity cost and onsite usage of 70%. Excludes VAT, netting and scaffolding.

To find out how much your firm could save with solar, give our friendly experts a call today. It could be the best business decision you make all year.

Considering solar for your business? Get the facts from a team you can trust, on 01803 732946 or via info@moleenergy.com

