



Solar sustainability and thousands saved for Plymouth Marjon University

David Stevenson, Mole Energy

While businesses and homeowners continue to play an important role in cutting CO₂ emissions; institutions like schools, universities and hospitals are also making a significant positive impact on our environment.

That's why Mole Energy is 100% committed to helping public and charitable organisations embrace solar sustainability – often saving them thousands of pounds in the process.

Our solar installation at Plymouth Marjon University is an excellent example - part of a £1.8 million project, funded by the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).

The 300kWp solar PV array, with 846 panels, installed by Mole Energy, will cut the university's CO₂ emissions by 300 tonnes or 18% – in year one. That's the same as planting 3,443 trees! But there were some challenges.

For all commercial projects we first identify which buildings are most viable for solar and then we commission a structural engineer to check the load bearing of the roof. The engineer's report identified a number of roofs that in this case weren't suitable. Against a tight deadline we re-designed the plans, which included a ballasted system that allowed us to secure the panels to a flat roof, without damaging the waterproof membrane beneath. This still achieved the 300kW the university required.

We also worked with the local Network Authority, Western Power, on behalf of the university to ensure the system was safely connected to the Grid.

As part of Mole Valley Farmers, we are 100% committed to customer care, so we will be there for the long-term to support Marjon in developing and maintaining their low carbon future.

John Bailey, Marjon Director of Estates says, "We're delighted to be making such dramatic improvements to our carbon footprint across the campus. At Marjon, we're uniquely located with views of the sea and the moors, with wildlife on campus and plenty of green space. It's great to be making changes that will be helping towards the long-term protection of the planet and wildlife we see every day."

Marjon won't only save on their CO₂ emissions. **Estimates show the university's energy saving installations will cut £400,000 in energy bills each year.**

That's a giant step forward, says Vice Chancellor Professor Rob Warner: "This is a wonderful opportunity for Marjon to go greener and a decisive step in our response to the climate emergency. In partnership with many others across the city and region, we look forward to taking ever greater strides year-on-year."



"After we'd established that solar would be a really good way for us to contribute to our work towards getting to zero carbon; we did some research on solar providers.

We wanted to keep the business local to the university and came across Mole Energy - they looked good and we invited them to campus. One of their technical team walked around with us, looked at potential roofs and made a proposal for us. It looked really good and was well thought through and demonstrated that they were going to be a contractor we could trust and work with.

With the grant funding, we had to achieve the entire project in a space of about twelve weeks so we had to shift our planning from a nine-month-long project to a twelve-week-long project.

We challenged Mole Energy to see if they could do this and they came back, said they could, **and they absolutely delivered it on time and budget. We're really delighted.**

I've worked with a number of different solar providers throughout my career and would thoroughly recommend Mole Energy as one of the best."

**John Bailey, Director of Estates,
Plymouth Marjon University.**

To find out how you can cut costs and CO₂ emissions, contact our friendly solar experts today.



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