

An extraordinary turn of events

David Stevenson, Mole Energy



This is the strangest article I've had to write.

After a huge surge in interest in solar, Mole Energy is busy working through a backlog of installation requests and is - for the first time - unable to respond to you as quickly as we'd like.

The story so far

In 2019 Feed in Tariffs (FIT) ended and the conversation around solar changed significantly. People were becoming impatient, waiting for the government and big businesses to act on climate change, with many homeowners seeking out solar to help them do more for the environment. Then global events happened. Locked down homeowners took the chance to invest in their houses instead of holidays and others used the time to become more self-sufficient.

The world opened back up. COP26 reminded homeowners and businesses of the environmental importance of solar. Then the energy crisis hit; major suppliers went bust and energy bills climbed. As events in Europe unfolded, they climbed even higher.

In April this year, **the government abolished VAT on solar panels for the home** - a strong sign of their wish to encourage all of us to become more self-sufficient. With extortionate bills and threats to our energy security; it's no surprise demand for solar has soared.

Please bear with us

There's no doubt solar and battery storage are fantastic ways to achieve self-sufficiency, lower your energy bills and cut your carbon footprint.

Understandably, homeowners and businesses are looking for high-quality solar systems installed by reputable companies like Mole Energy. Choosing an established installer is important given the long-term nature of investing in solar. And being part of Mole Valley Farmers means our customers know we're here for the long term too.

But this has created a challenge. Demand for our services has jumped exponentially and the reality is we're not always able to answer everyone's enquiry as quickly as we would like. To help things along, I've answered some of your more frequently asked questions below:

How much does solar cost?

Prices vary depending on the complexity of the installation, the type of panels and functionality. A typical solar PV system for the home is made up of 12 solar panels producing about 4,000kWh's* of free

electricity per year (*a kWh is a unit of electricity). Most homeowners use between 4,000 and 6,000kWh's per year.

Whilst it's still possible to install a smaller system from £4,995; the average domestic array is around £6,500. A premium array starts at £7,000. **Solar for the home is zero rated for VAT from April 2022.** These prices exclude scaffolding costs which can vary between £500 and £1,000.

Commercial installations can start from £7,000 and can go up to £500,000 or more.

How much does battery storage cost?

There are many battery options on the market. Our surveyors will advise on the best option for you, from the select range we have narrowed down on your behalf. Our battery storage range starts at £7,820 installed, for a Solar Edge Energy Bank 10kW battery - through to £9,659 installed for the Tesla Powerwall 2. This has 13.5kW's of storage capacity and a power-cut, backup function. Battery storage for the home is zero rated VAT from April 2022 **but only when purchased at the same time as your solar.**

All prices are subject to survey, District Network Operator (DNO) approval and connection charges*.

Please help us to help you

We love to talk to our customers. However, to be able to handle all of our enquiries, our surveyors are currently keeping each call **to around 30 minutes.** We'll use this time to find out more about your project and to create the best quote we can for you.

To help our team, please gather some important information, ready for when we call. We'll need to know your roof finish (e.g. tile, slate or concrete), your annual energy bill, (including unit price) and whether there are any time constraints around your project - i.e. if you have scaffolding going up for a new build or an extension.

Be assured

We are doing everything we can to respond to this unprecedented demand, including expansion of our team, premises and installation capacity. This will take time because we want to do this properly. Mole Energy has more than 10 years of knowledge and experience to pass on to the next generation of installers, electricians, surveyors and administrators. The quality of our delivery is the reason why so many customers return, or recommend us, and it's not something we're willing to compromise.

Now back to recruiting!

*Please note that products and prices may be subject to change, due to evolving market conditions. Additional information can be found on our website: moleenergy.com

Are you an electrician looking for a career in renewable energy? Call us today.



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