

# The Need for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Developments

There is widespread awareness of the need to produce energy and store in the UK to support our homes, increasingly technological lifestyles and national infrastructure.

The United Kingdom is the first major economy to pass a Net Zero emissions law, requiring nationwide greenhouse gas emissions to reach Net Zero by 2050, with a target to decarbonise the electricity grid by 2035. Recent legislation change, in 2025, now allows Local Authorities to decide on solar developments up to 100MW creating a key opportunity to deliver local developments to meet both local and national energy generating targets.

North Northamptonshire Council declared a Climate and Environment Emergency in July 2021 and state themselves that the world must make cuts in carbon emissions to limit global warming to 1.5<sup>o</sup>C. The Council have made a commitment to the authority becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and the area by 2050 or sooner. The Council's Climate Change

Strategy sets out the transition to renewable energy is imperative for the North Northants area to meet its carbon reduction targets and state they are committed to supporting the maximum production of renewable energy across the area.

An important step in achieving Net Zero is the rapid decarbonisation of the UK electricity network, as this will enable the decarbonisation of other sectors, such as heat and transport. To achieve a low carbon energy network the UK Government has a target of 45-47 Gigawatts (GW) of solar by 2030 in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.

Solar farms like the proposed former Desborough Airfield Solar development will play a key role in reaching these committed targets and addressing energy security in the UK.

