

Solar Council Minutes

Date: 16th March 2026 Time 9:00 – 10:30

Attendees:

- Michael Shanks MP (Chair), DESNZ
- Chris Hewett, Chief Executive (Chair), SEUK
- Gemma Grimes (Deputy Chair), SEUK
- Daniel Cox, DESNZ
- Jonathan Bates, Photon Energy
- Alex De Souza, Lightsource BP
- Matt Black, IG Renewables
- Liz Cammack, Segen
- Grant Rogers, Qualitas Energy
- Kamal Rajput, Tata Steel
- Tracey Elliot, Eden Sustainable Power
- Fergal McEntee, Renvolt Energy
- Natalie Lam, British Solar Renewables
- Ed Birkett, Low Carbon
- David Acres, EDF
- Rosalind Smith-Maxwell, Quinbrook
- Ian Rippin, Micro Certification Scheme
- Thomas Weston, Prospect
- Sam Leistner, GBE
- *(With support from SEUK and Officials from DESNZ, Ofgem, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive)*

Summary:

- Minister Shanks outlined the government's commitment to accelerating the clean power mission in response to geopolitical instability and recent AR7 auction successes.
- DESNZ summarised progress on solar roadmap actions, the appointment of chapter sponsors and the formation of the Solar Industry Forum.
- DESNZ presented the Solar Dashboard and the Council provided perspectives on connections reform, business rates, community benefits and shared ownership.
- Industry recommended a number of actions for consideration for CfD AR8, including auction design, parameters, delivery years, hybrid metering and error correction.
- DESNZ provided an overview of the Warm Homes Plan, detailing funding, regulatory changes and targets for home upgrades.

- Attendees discussed the need for targeted skills development and mechanisms to attract and qualify new installers.
- DESNZ led a discussion on a forward look for Council agendas.
- Chairs closed the meeting, emphasising the importance of driving forward action and working together on communications and narrative.