

Solar Council Minutes

Date: 8 July 2026

Attendees:

- Michael Shanks MP (Chair), DESNZ
- Chris Hewett, (Chair), SEUK
- Gemma Grimes (Deputy Chair), SEUK
- Jonathan Bates, Photon Energy
- Alex De Souza, Lightsource BP
- Matt Black
- Liz Cammack
- Grant Rogers, Qualitas Energy
- Kamal Rajput, Tata Steel
- Dave Tattershall, SolarPort
- Tracey Elliot, Eden Sustainable Power
- Fergal McEntee, Renvolt Energy
- KT Tan, Veridian Solar
- Bethany Meban, Solar Stewardship Initiative
- Tom Railton, Prospect
- Sam Leistner & Lucy Shearer, GBE
- Sarah James, DESNZ
- Daniel Cox, DESNZ
- With support from SEUK and officials from DESNZ, Ofgem, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive

Summary:

- Minister Shanks outlined recent developments related to solar, including AR8, floating solar and plug-in solar.
- DESNZ presented the Solar Dashboard and updated members on deployment progress, the solar pipeline and delivery of Solar Roadmap actions.
- The dashboard showed an increase in operational capacity and growth in approved applications
- Members raised points around connections reform, rooftop solar data, community benefits and shared ownership.
- Great British Energy sought industry views on shaping their strategy for solar including investment opportunities and where GBE can best support the industry.
- Industry raised points around the competitiveness of the UK solar market, EPC capacity, financing conditions and opportunities to strengthen UK supply chains.
- DBT provided a short update on the Responsible Business Conduct Review.

- The Solar Stewardship Initiative updated members on progress with ESG certification, traceability and engagement with manufacturers across the solar supply chain.
- Members discussed opportunities to strengthen UK solar manufacturing, innovation and wider supply-chain capability.
- Chairs closed the meeting, thanking members for their contributions and encouraging continued engagement ahead of the next Council meeting.