

Oaklands Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage

Introduction



Welcome to our public consultation on Oaklands Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land near Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales.

Why do we need renewable energy?

In order to address the damaging effects of climate change, we need to move away from burning our limited fossil fuel reserves to using more sustainable, cleaner, renewable energy sources.

In October 2021, the UK Government launched its Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener which includes the target for decarbonizing the electricity grid by 2035.

To meet this target, 40-60% of electricity generated will have to come from green sources including renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, biomass, wave and tidal.

The use of renewable energy is also beneficial to the UK economy as it reduces the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels.



Why solar energy?

Solar energy is a safe, established and renewable form of energy generation which produces no carbon dioxide, noise, pollution or by-products while operating. It also enjoys the highest levels of public support for renewable energy in the UK, with 85% of the public in favour. Solar energy is freely and readily available and will always be so.

Solar panels are a non-intrusive and benign development. Agricultural activities can continue on the land and the panels can be removed following the end of power generation, allowing the site to be returned to its former use with no environmental legacy.

Why battery energy storage?

During periods of high demand, the National Grid aim to increase supply to maintain a 20% supply margin which is essential in eliminating, as far as possible, the risk of power shortages and blackouts, when there is an unexpected change in demand, or a sudden loss of supply.

Battery energy storage systems provide sub-second response times, so offer a reliable solution to a number of the Grid's balancing issues thus supporting the development and deployment of low carbon intermittent energy technologies (e.g. solar and wind) upon which society must increasingly rely on to satisfy its energy and environmental requirements.

Project Timeline:

Spring 2022
Pre-planning and project inception

Summer 2022
Community consultation

Autumn 2022
Review of feedback and submission of a planning application

Summer 2023
Subject to planning permission, construction will begin