

01 How can Solar PV help solve the current energy crisis?

Solar has been in the news recently as the Government look to accelerate the availability of 'Balcony' or 'Plug-in' Solar and confirmed that almost all new homes will have solar installed as standard. This shows that solar has been and can be very much linked to a solution to household energy bills rising - the average plug in solar system is forecast to pay for itself in 4-5 years (at today's prices) and save around £110 per year. REA look forward to working with the Government and industry to address regulatory barriers to these systems as they must be installed safely.

Meanwhile new homes fitted with solar, heat pumps and built to very energy efficient standards, should save households up to £800 per



year. Octopus Energy however has its 'Zero Bills Homes' initiative - a landmark for new builds that promise no bills at all for the first 10 years of living there - this shows that solar, renewables and clean tech can and do save people money.

We also know that consumers increasingly recognise solar (and storage) as one of the steps they can take to save money - enquiries to Octopus and eon have reportedly doubled in recent weeks and we have seen a record number of small-scale installations of these systems.

Of course the less written about area is of energy costs for businesses - these are not protected by the energy price cap shielding consumers but we all ultimately end up paying the cost if employers go out of business and prices increase as a result. These price increases - caused by fossil gas price rises - have been neglected for too long but increasing numbers of businesses are now realising that solar, storage and other forms of renewables are the long term way out of these sky high costs and installs have hit record highs. Solar can of course, space allowing, also help



What are the **next steps**?

Moving forwards, Government must enable even more people and businesses to benefit from solar, by enabling financial measures which remove the upfront cost - such as Salary Sacrifice which has been highly successful in driving EV adoption. This removes the upfront cost by spreading it onto deductions from monthly wages, therefore increasing adoption. Government must also extend the current temporary VAT relief on solar panel and energy storage installs and introduce zero interest loans for such installs, for those not in a salaried role.

So solar (and renewables) are one of the main practical steps households and businesses can take to shield themselves from energy price rises and the Government are taking welcome steps to enable this but can go further.