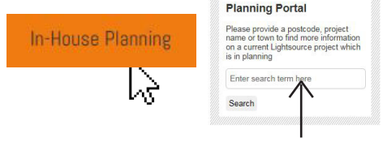
GET INVOLVED!

You can send us your feedback, comments or support via our online Planning Portal:

GO TO
www.lightsource-re.co.uk



TYPE
'Belfast Road'

You can also contact us by phone or email. If you would prefer to write to us the traditional way, please get in touch and we will happily send you a pre-paid envelope.

We are still gathering information from our detailed wildlife and landscape assessments in order to refine our designs. So it will be several weeks before we submit a formal planning application. Before we do, we would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have.

We are also keen to champion the local economy - involving as many local contractors and businesses as we can during the solar farm's construction and the ongoing responsible management of the land. If you would like to be involved in the project, please get in touch, or come and introduce yourself at our information event.

Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited
Scottish Provident Building
7 Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1 6JH

www.lightsource-re.co.uk

Visit our YouTube channel 'Lightsource Solar' to watch the video!

WHY SOLAR?

Stabilising energy bills long term

Once the equipment is installed, the sun's energy is free – this makes solar power a vital long term player in protecting us from the volatile costs of raw materials, such as coal and gas. Generating energy locally also means the UK can take more control over its electricity supply and costs, without relying on foreign supplies.

Championing the local economy

Renting a small portion of land to Lightsource for the generation of renewable energy can provide rural businesses with a predictable, steady income stream which can support the rest of the farming business. We also try to incorporate as many local contractors and service providers into our plans as possible. If you'd like to work with us, please get in touch.

Bridging the energy gap

Compared with traditional power plants, solar farms are quick to deploy. A solar farm capable of generating power for thousands of homes can be operational in a matter of months.

Meeting our targets

The Northern Ireland Executives' target is to meet 40% of our energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. Solar power is one of the most passive technologies to implement in order to help meet these targets and fight climate change.

Boosting biodiversity

The UK's wildlife is declining in species and number, largely due to intensive crop farming. Solar farms provide pockets of diversified land which allow wildlife habitats to flourish undisturbed and biodiversity levels to increase.

Solar farms do not harm the ground they sit on

Steel, pile driven foundations can simply be pulled out of the ground with no lasting damage. At the end of the working life of a solar farm all infrastructure is removed easily and the land fully restored to the way it was. Not many other 'power stations' can say that.

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Community Information Pack

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM at 66 BELFAST ROAD

Lightsource Renewable Energy is working on a proposal for a solar farm on land 90m south west of 66 Belfast Road, Ballyhill. Lightsource already owns and operates a variety of solar farms and rooftop installations, working with local communities, businesses and landowners to generate green energy locally and sustainably.

A solar farm does not only produce energy - the proposed solar farm at 66 Belfast Road will also be grazed by sheep, continuing the land's current agricultural use as grazing pasture. Wide field margins around the site perimeter will be utilised to enhance habitats and foraging areas for wildlife. The specific enhancements we propose will be decided using local input and the results of our ecological surveys which are currently underway.

If you would like to see how you can get involved in the project, please contact us or come and meet us in person at Crumlin Community Centre on 10th June. The only suitable venue we could find for the Information Evening is some distance from the site. We hope this will not deter you from visiting, but If you cannot make it please get in touch with our team by telephone, email or post - your feedback and questions are most welcome throughout the development of the project.

Benefits

2,450 homes powered by clean, locally produced electricity

Livestock grazing within the solar farm

Biodiversity enhancements to enrich wildlife habitats around the boundaries

Opportunities for local residents, students and wildlife groups to get involved in our plans

Solar farms provide great opportunities for biodiversity enhancement

Get involved!

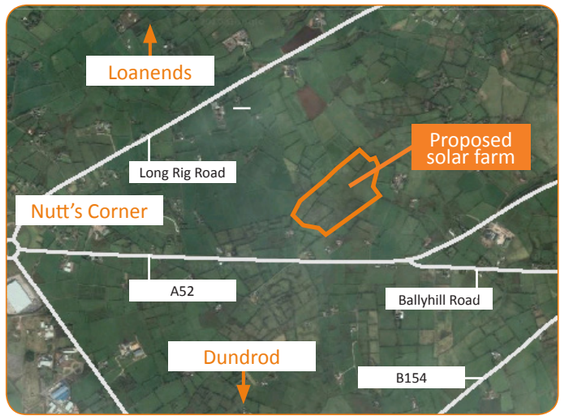
COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENING

LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED

Wednesday 10th June 2015

Crumlin Community Centre
2 Main Street
Crumlin
BT29 4UP

Drop in any time between 5:30 - 8:00 pm



HOW MUCH ENERGY?

- 9.7 Megawatts Peak (MWp)
- 2,450 households powered
- 4,200 tonnes of carbon emissions saved, every year
- ...Equivalent to taking 900 large family cars off the road

To find out how we make our calculations, please take a look at our planning portal at: www.lightsource-re.co.uk

Case study: NEWLANDS SOLAR FARM

The Lightsource solar farm at Newlands Farm, Devon, was installed on agricultural land used for sheep grazing. With the solar farm in place, sheep continue to graze the entire solar farm area, allowing the land to produce both food and energy. As well as continuing the land's traditionally agricultural use, sheep grazing also reduces the need for grass cutting on site. The hedgerows around the solar farm at Newlands Farm have been planted with Holly, Beech and Hawthorn to provide year-round screening, as well as food sources and nesting opportunities for local birds. *Find out more:*

YouTube 'Lightsource Solar'

OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS...

Proposed solar farm on land 90m south west of 66 Belfast Road, Ballyhill, BT29 4TH

Our plans are in early stages, so our design and planting proposals will evolve as we gather local input and the results of our ecological, topographical and landscape assessments. These are our current thoughts:

Species-Rich Grass

Species-rich grass will be sown throughout the site, including the areas oversailed by panels.

Green Open Space

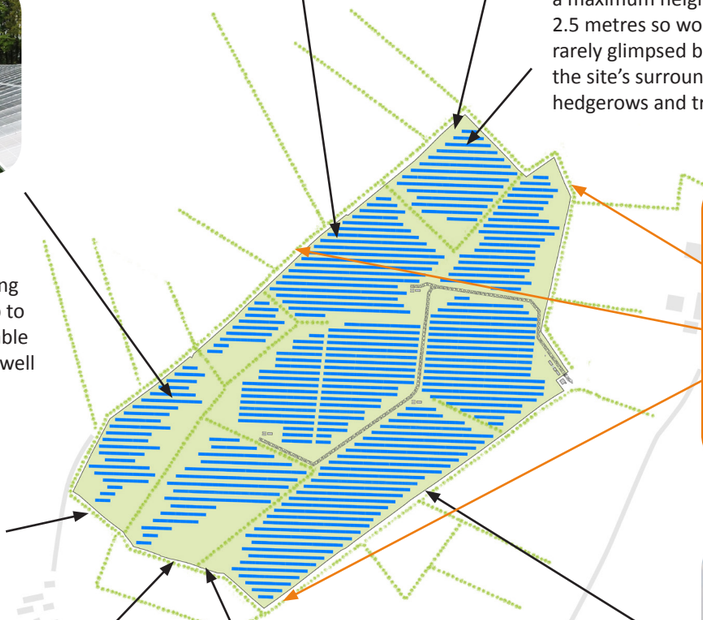
Wide spaces around the site boundaries and between the rows of panels will leave the majority of the solar farm's grasslands completely open and uncovered.

Low Height

The panels would reach a maximum height of 2.5 metres so would be rarely glimpsed beyond the site's surrounding hedgerows and trees.

Sheep Grazing

The land inside the solar farm will continue its use as grazing pasture. Sheep grazing throughout the site will help to manage grass levels and enable the land to produce food as well as locally generated energy.



New Planting

At present, there are limited views into the site from some residential properties to the north east and south. We plan to strengthen the vegetation along the western, south east and north east boundaries with semi-mature trees and hedgerow planting to reduce these views.

Vegetation Retained

The existing trees and hedgerows in and around the site will be retained and managed as part of the project.

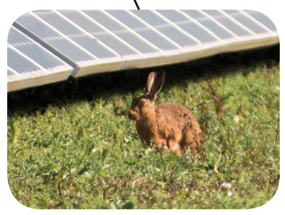
All new cabling will be buried underground so there will be no new overhead lines.

Rural Fencing

A timber and wire agricultural fence of about 2 metres in height will be used, appropriate to the rural setting. The fence will sit inside the surrounding vegetation.

Biodiversity Enhancement

The design avoids using areas shaded by boundary vegetation by leaving wide field margins around the site perimeter. These spaces can be utilised to improve prospects for wildlife by sowing wild flowers or installing hibernacula. The specific enhancements we propose here will be decided using the results of our ecological surveys as well as local input and ideas. If you would like to help shape our plans, please get in touch.



Mammal Gates

'Mammal gates' in the fencing allow small mammals to move freely across the site undisturbed.

The operation of the solar farm would be of no disturbance to farm animals, wildlife, walkers or motorists. There will be no flood lighting, the solar panels will not move, and as they are designed specifically to absorb daylight, an anti-reflective surface ensures any reflection of light is dull and minimal.

LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved?

We welcome as much feedback as possible on our initial designs. If you have a question, would like to help shape our proposal, or belong to a local wildlife group, school or youth group and would like to see how you could get involved, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our planning team via our online Planning Portal:

www.lightsource-re.co.uk

(Full instructions overleaf)

Why harvest energy instead of food?

It isn't a choice - solar farms can do both. The solar farm at 66 Belfast Road is being designed for the grazing of small livestock, enabling us to generate energy whilst continuing the land's agricultural use.

Are solar farms irreversible development?

No - solar farms are a temporary use of land and do not necessarily lead to further development. At the end of our lease period (usually about 25-30 years) the framework will be removed without harming the land.

Is there an increased risk of flooding around solar farm sites?

No - no mass concrete surface is required and the majority of the solar farm remains open grassland, so the infrastructure on a solar farm does not affect run-off volumes. The panels are raised on a framework which rests on pile-driven legs, so less than 5% of the ground surface is actually disturbed.

Will the solar farm cause traffic disruption?

Whilst the solar farm is being installed, a traffic management plan will be in place to avoid disruption, including organising off-peak daytime deliveries. It would take about 2 months to install the solar farm, averaging about 6 deliveries per day. Once the solar farm is in place it requires very little maintenance and the occasional visits in regular cars or 4x4s would cause no traffic disruption at all.

Are solar farms noisy?

No - you would not expect to hear any noise beyond the site boundary.

Where will the electricity go?

The solar farm will connect to the Local Distribution Network. At its current design, the solar farm would be expected to generate 8,230 Megawatt Hours (MWh) of electricity over the course of a year - this is equivalent to the annual consumption of 2,450 households. Local energy take-off will consume some, if not the majority, of the energy generated.