

Mandatory Solar Panels in New Homes: What Housebuilders Need to Know About the 2027 Solar Requirement

What the requirement means on site.

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As the UK moves closer to implementing the Future Homes Standard, housebuilders must prepare for a major shift in how new homes are designed and built. One of the most significant upcoming changes is the expected introduction of mandatory solar panels on new homes in the UK by 2027.

For developers, rooftop solar will become an essential tool for meeting energy efficiency targets for new homes and deliver the homes that today's home buyers want.

But with new compliance pressures comes concern around cost, particularly at scale. That's why many developers are now exploring alternative delivery models, such as fully funded solar leasing, which allow solar PV to be integrated into housing developments without upfront capital expenditure.

Below, we unpack what the Future Homes Standard solar requirement means for housebuilders, what's still being clarified, and how developers can future-proof new UK homes with solar and storage while protecting project viability.

What’s Changing with the Future Homes Standard?

The Future Homes Standard, set to be announced in full imminently, is a cornerstone of the UK government’s net-zero housing strategy. The policy aims to ensure that all new homes produce 75–80% fewer carbon emissions compared with current building regulations.

One of the most important ways developers will meet these targets is through solar panels on new build homes from 2027.

While the full technical details are still to be released, the government has announced that most new residential developments will require rooftop solar PV systems.

For housebuilders, this means that integrating solar in housing developments in the UK must now be considered early in the planning process. Exploring fully funded solar leasing models like Gryd’s can help you align with the new regulations while keeping margins intact and avoiding disruption to build schedules.

Understanding the Cost of Rooftop Solar on New Builds in the UK

For housebuilders unfamiliar with solar technology, cost planning is a common concern. The good news is that solar technology has become significantly cheaper and more efficient in the past decade. However, the pressure to deliver low-carbon homes at scale is causing many housebuilders to install the minimum viable solar systems to meet current building regulations.

The average size of home solar systems being installed has decreased from about 4kWp in 2023 to 2.4kWp in 2024. A 2.4kWp system is inadequate for even modest energy needs and leaves no headroom for future demands, such as electric vehicle charging, heat pumps or electric heating systems, or growing families with increasing energy consumption. Installing a larger 5–6kW system offers a far more futureproof solution and delivers greater long-term savings and carbon reduction.

Larger systems provide a much more future-ready solution. Systems in the 5–6 kW range offer significantly higher energy generation, helping homeowners reduce bills while supporting the electrification of homes.

Importantly at any size profile, every solar installation should include battery storage to maximise the system’s efficiency, allowing homeowners to store excess energy and use it later when generation drops.

Below we break down the typical cost of a new build solar system in the UK, including estimates with and without battery storage.

SYSTEM SIZE	NO. OF PANELS	SOLAR ONLY (INSTALLED COST)	SOLAR + BATTERY (INSTALLED COST)
3 kW	7–8 panels	£4,500 – £5,500	£7,000 – £8,500
4 kW	9–11 panels	£5,500 – £6,500	£8,000 – £9,500
5 kW	12–13 panels	£6,500 – £7,500	£10,000 – £12,000
6 kW	14–16 panels	£7,000 – £8,500	£11,000 – £13,500

These estimates reflect the typical cost of solar panels, inverter, installation, and basic equipment. While batteries are optional, they are increasingly seen as essential for future-proofing a home solar system – unlocking its full potential and allowing homeowners to store excess energy for use at night or when the sun isn't shining as strongly.

Why Solar Adds Value to New Build Homes

Solar is no longer just an environmental choice; it's a financial one. Recent surveys show that a majority of today's home buyers want lower energy bills, long-term energy security, and homes that are truly built for the future, not just for compliance.

Developers who get ahead of the regulatory curve and respond to the consumer demand that is already robust in the market have the chance to gain the competitive edge.

If you're looking to add the benefits of rooftop solar onto your developments without the financial burden of purchasing and ownership, Gryd's fully-funded model is a great option. Our smart solar systems offer a turnkey solution to the forthcoming mandate with no capital investment or system ownership required.

Your homes will come with futureproofed smart solar and battery systems built-in and optimised for each property, allowing homebuyers to benefit from lower bills and greener energy from day one.

Ready to get ahead of the solar mandate? We work directly with developers to streamline deployment across entire projects, from specification to completion. For developers exploring the most efficient path to compliance, Gryd's fully funded solar model can reduce financial strain while keeping projects on track.

Contact Gryd today to discuss how solar can be integrated into your upcoming developments affordably and with future compliance standards in mind. Let's build the homes of the future, today.

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