

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: 02 July 2025 15:04

To:

Subject: EIR response -

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulation request dated 9 June 2025 for information about solar energy usage and future plans. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

1. Governance & Responsibility

a. Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation? If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Response: Yes, Head of Environmental Sustainability

2. Current Solar Deployment

a. How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?

Response: 20 buildings, 830 homes

b. What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?

Response: 2.6MW

c. What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

Response: 5%

3. Investment & Strategy

a. Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation? If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

Response: No

4. Solar and Net Zero Commitments

a. Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy? If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

Response: Yes, website and reports

5. Future Plans

a. Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).

Response: At present, the only plans are for 2025-26, which adds 140kwp across 5 sites

b. Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

Response: We haven't conducted feasibility studies. The works have been incorporated into other planned building improvements.

6. Procurement & Partnerships

a. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?

Response: The Council has qualified in-house installers which are first choice. Subject to the value of the works, either quotes will be sought or the use of a Framework such as YORBuild, EN Procure, CCS.

b. Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

Response: No, the works for 2025-26 either utilise the Council's in-house engineers or contractors already procured to deliver construction works to schools.

7. Battery Storage

a. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?

Response: Yes, of the 20 buildings with solar, 2 currently have battery storage. The 5 sites planned for 2025-26 all include battery storage.

b. Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

Response: Yes, each site will be considered for battery storage.

8. Funding

a. Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Response: GB Energy are funding the solar works planned for 2025-26. All but 2 of the previous installations have been funded by the Council

9. Barriers

a. What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Response: The Freedom of Information Act provides a right of access, subject to certain exemptions, to recorded information held by public authorities. It does not require public authorities to express opinions or comment upon matters, as this question requires the expression of comments, this information is not held. However we are prepared to answer this outside of the FOI process - Roof suitability is the main challenge. We have one solar carport, but these are more expensive to build. Funding is not a barrier due to the strong business case for roof top solar.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £98 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email

FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Dook
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