

HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Dear Chancellor,

**Re: Changes to business rates for self-consumes solar power**

Solar is the British public's most popular source of energy and one of the cheapest ways to deliver clean power. Investment in renewables needs to treble globally to deliver on the Paris Agreement on climate change, which entered into force this month.

It is therefore disappointing that over the past year major policy changes have led to rooftop solar deployment falling by over 80% in the UK. Instead of stabilising the industry, it has been further jeopardised by surprise business rate rises for organisations that own and supply themselves with solar power. Businesses, schools and others with solar face a sharp 6-8 fold tax hike from next April. If this proceeds it will also restrict future investment in solar rooftops all over the UK and put the British solar industry at a disadvantage, both at home and internationally.

New Ministers have described climate change as 'one of the biggest – if not the biggest – threats to our national and global security'. We agree. It would be extraordinary if the Government penalised businesses and communities for taking positive action. We urge you to stop the solar tax hike.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Barwell, CEO, Solar Trade Association

Lawrence Slade, CEO, Energy UK

Paul Crewe, Head of Sustainability,  
Sainsbury's

Jeremy Parsons, Head of Energy &  
Renewables, Kingfisher plc

Mary Creagh MP, Chair of the  
Environmental Audit Committee

Craig Bennett, CEO, Friends of the Earth

Dan Grandage, Head of Responsible  
Property Investment, Aberdeen Asset  
Management PLC

Ian Marchant, CEO, Dunelm Energy

Paul Massara, CEO, North Star Solar

Joan Macnaughton CB Hon FEI, Chair, The  
Climate Group

Tracy Dunn, Headteacher, Fitzmaurice  
Primary School, Wiltshire

Alan Creedy, Energy Policy Chair,  
Federation of Small Businesses

John Sauven, Executive Director,  
Greenpeace

Juliet Davenport, Chief Executive, Good Energy

Chris Hulatt, Founder and Head of Strategy, Octopus Investments

Sir Tim Smit KBE, Executive Vice Chairman and Co-founder of the Eden Project

Ian Gardner, Global Energy Leader, Arup

Simon Cox, First Vice President Project Management and UK Sustainability Officer, Prologis

Paul Roche, Director of Energy & Sustainability, Grafton Group PLC

Martin Harper, Conservation Director, RSPB

James Armstrong, Managing Partner, Bluefield Partners LLP

Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director, Scientists for Global Responsibility

Professor Joanna D. Haigh CBE FRS, Co-Director, Grantham Institute – Climate Change & Environment, Imperial College

Caroline Lucas MP and Jonathan Bartley, Co-Leaders of the Green Party of England & Wales

Gillian Drakeford, Country Retail Manager, IKEA UK and Ireland

Gabby Mallett, Director, YouGen

Nick Emery, CEO, Fred.Olsen Ltd

Dr Jeremy Leggett, Founder of Solarcentury and SolarAid

Tony Stacey, CEO, South Yorkshire Housing Association Ltd

Tom Paul, Business Development Director, Kingspan

Martin Wright, Chairman, Renewable Energy Association

Robert Schrimppff, CEO, Solar for Schools

Philip Gready FRICS FAAV, Head of Rural, Energy, and Projects, Savills

Amy Cameron, Director, 10:10

Dale Vince OBE, Founder, Ecotricity

Baroness Featherstone, Lords Spokesperson (Energy & Climate Change), Liberal Democrats

Ramsay Dunning, Managing Director, Co-operative Energy

Syed Ahmed, Director, Energy for London

Dr Robert Gross, Director of the Centre for Energy Policy and Technology, Imperial College

Philip Wolfe MBE, Director, Community Energy England

Kevin Mouatt, CEO, Anesco Ltd

Ross Murray, President, Country Land & Business Association

Paul Reeve, Director of Business & External Affairs, Electrical Contractors' Association

Oliver Schafer, President, Solar Power Europe

Nigel Rees, Chief Executive, Glass & Glazing Federation

Dr Tony Juniper, Environmentalist and Writer

Professor Peter Lynn, University of Essex

Lisa Ashford, CEO, Ethex

Ian Draisey, Managing Director, BayWa  
r.e.

Brian Cooper, Town & Country Electricians  
Ltd.

Nicky Bull, Chair, Operation Noah

Catherine Mitchell, Professor of Energy  
Policy, Energy Policy Group at the  
University of Exeter

Mike Smyth, Chair, Energy4All

Toddington Harper, CEO, BELECTRIC UK

Emeritus Professor Keith Barnham,  
Imperial College

Frank Niendorf, General Manager Europe,  
Jinko Solar

Dr Tadhg O'Donovan, Director of Scottish  
Institute for Solar Energy Research,  
Heriot-Watt University

Professor Emeritus Susan Roaf, Heriot  
Watt University

Gareth Jones, Managing Director, Carbon  
Zero Renewables Ltd

Alistair Mumford, Corporate Energy  
Manager, Devon County Council

Andy O'Brien, Co-Director, Bristol Energy  
Cooperative

Julia Craik, Managing Director, The  
Premises Solar Powered Recording Studio

Tom Parkinson, Chair, Westmill Solar Co-  
op

Andrew Simms, Co-Director, New  
Weather Institute and Author

Tim Rook, Technical Director, Building  
Engineering Services Association

Cllr Andrew Cooper, Kirklees Council

Frans van den Heuvel, CEO, Solarcentury

Sophy Fearnley-Whittingstall, Founder,  
SFW Communications

Sarah Ewins, Business Manager, Eleanor  
Palmer Primary, Camden.

Clare O'shea, Governor Hyde Primary  
school, Hampshire

Gary Freedman, Fair field Junior School,  
Hertfordshire

Karl Handy, Teacher, Holy Trinity Primary  
School, Essex

Adam Stanley, Deputy Head, Liss Junior  
School, Hampshire

Ruth Atkins, PTA, Mabe Primary School,  
Cornwall

Dr Kerry Mashford, Chief Executive,  
National Energy Foundation

Professor Franny Armstrong, film-maker  
and climate campaigner

Steve Cains, Head of Power Solutions,  
Public Power Solutions

William Notcutt, William Notcutt Estates

James Steynor, CEO, SBC Renewables

John Turner, Director, Celtic Renewable  
Energy Ltd

Gill Perkins, CEO, Bumblebee  
Conservation Trust

John Irons, Business Development  
Director at Ingen Energy

James Elston, Managing Director, Green  
Yorkshire LTD

Thijs Bauer, CEO, Colville Partners

Phil Roberts, Operations Director, GMI Energy

Ffinlo Costain, Director, Costain Consulting Ltd

Dan McCallum, Co-director, Egni PV co-op

Matthew Lumsden, Managing Director, Connected Energy Ltd

Tony Sampson, Managing Director, Cornwall Solar Panels

George Bartley, Project Manager – Utilities, Bruntwood

Phil Powell, Director, Gwent Energy CIC

Rajiv Bhatia, Managing Director, Alternergy

Jonathan Bates, Director & General Manager, Photon Energy Ltc

Richard Beckett, Global OEM Relationship Director, Global Water Solutions

Conrad Meyer, Managing Director, Ecocetera Ltd

Paul Neary and Michael McGhee, Directors, NEO Environmental

David Clarke, Director, Corbin Industries

Dr Neil Lewis, Chairman, Carmarthenshire Energy Ltd

Luke Jeffreys, Director, Drakes Renewables

Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive, Buglife

Daniel Hughes, Director, Safe Install Ltd

Stuart Speake, CEO, Soltropy Ltd

Peter Lipman, Chair, Transition Network

Kate Gilmartin, Director, My Green Investment CIC

Esbjorn Wilmar, Chief Executive, Infinergy

Jeremy Hinton, Chief Operating Officer, New Forest Energy Ltd

Dr Mary Gillie MIET CEng, Energy Local Ltd

Howard Johns, Managing Director, ENcome Energy Performance UK Ltd

Caroline Pomeroy, Director, Climate Stewards

Kevin Knapp, Group Managing Director, Ecolution Renewables

James Eades, Operations Director, EnergyMyWay

Sarah Butler-Sloss, Founder Director, Ashden

Herbert Eppel, Founder, HE German Technical Translations

David Hampton, Chartered Environmentalist, CEO, Carbon Coach Ltd

Stuart Qualtrough, Editor, Renewable Energy Installer Magazine

Andrew Taylor, Co-Director of Campaigns and Communications, People & Planet

Darren Edwards, Partner & Head of Sustainable Energy, Fisher German LLP

Dr Alexander Arcache, CEO, Kronos Solar

Dr Elaine Booth, CEO, Greenside Wind Energy Ltd and Bruxiehill Wind Energy Ltd

Paul Robinson, CEO, Ednie Wind Energy Ltd and Ednie Farms

Christian Breyer, Professor for Solar Economy, Lappeenranta University of Technology

Richard Priestly, Writer, Speaker, and Blogger

Lee Barrett, CEO, Energy Savings 4 You Ltd

Rob Santler, Owner & Director, The Ecosphere

Michal Galda, Managing Director, NWT Energy

Annette Thomas, Managing Director, Julian Foye

Mark Stevenson, Owner/Managing Director, Bright Spark Energy

Charles Perry, green entrepreneur and co-founder, SecondNature

Julian Patrick, CEO, Freewatt Group Ltd

Mark Poucher, Head of International Purchasing & Supply Chain, Plastico Ltd

Harry Shepherd-Cross, Director, Haymaker Energy

Ryan Green, CEO, Romag Ltd

Ben Reid, Chief Executive, Midcounties Co-operative

Andy Pegg, CEO, Segen Ltd

Lesley Rudd, Acting Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association

Graham Provest, Managing Director, Absolute Solar & Wind

Cleland Laidlay, Eco Hi Solar Ltd

Sonya Bedford, Partner and Head of Renewable Energy Team, Stephens Scown LLP

Michael Watson, Chairman, Pager Power Ltd

Francis Wright, Managing Director, Turquoise International Ltd

Jan Van Laethem, Regional Manager Western Europe, SMA Solar Technology

Nick Russel, Chairman, Denchi Power Ltd

Gerard Sauer, Director, Safin Resources

David Munn, Managing Director, Green Energy Solutions

Suzanne Jeffery, Chair, Campaign Against Climate Change

John Hudson, Managing Director, Boston Renewables

Adrian Williams, Owner, Solar Technology International

Bruce Cross, Founder & Managing Director, GB-Sol Ltd

David Robson, Managing Director, InstaGroup Ltd

Shanza Ali, Chair, Muslim Climate Action

Merlin Hyman, Chief Executive, Regen SW

Gabriel Wondrausch, Managing Director, SunGift Energy

Jacob Rix, Policy Officer, UK Youth Climate Coalition

David Elbourne, CEO, Solarplicity

Hugh Ellis, Interim CEO, Town & Country Planning Association

Paul Bodenham, Chair, Green Christian

Marc Stears, Executive Director, New Economics Foundation

Ruth Busbridge, Director, Ledbury Community Solar Co-op

Chris Church, Chair, Climate Action England

Vimal Ruia, Managing Director, Drew  
Brady & Co Ltd

Stefano Gambro, Managing Director,  
Ennoviga Solar Ltd

Peter Haigh, Managing Director, Bristol  
Energy Ltd.

Correspondence address:

Solar Trade Association,  
53 Chandos Road,  
London WC2N 4HS