



Solar Trade Association  
Chapter House  
22 Chapter Street  
London  
SW1P 4NP  
Date: 30/10/2020

**Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP**  
**Chancellor of the Exchequer**  
**HM Treasury**  
**The Correspondence and Enquiry Unit**  
**1 Horse Guards Road**  
**London**  
**SW1A 2HQ**

**Re: Business Rates and Renewable Energy**

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you as UK industry leaders to ask you to exempt onsite renewable energy technologies such as solar PV and battery storage from business rates.

By doing so you will not only bring these technologies in line with certain fossil fuel technologies, such as gas Combined Heat and Power, but you could help create over 2,600 quality green jobs each year, generate more than £315 million in additional business investment, and most importantly support the UK's transition to a net-zero economy.

The present situation specifically disincentivises businesses from employing onsite renewable generation compared with fossil fuels and fails to align with the government's intentions to deliver a sustainable economic recovery post-COVID-19.

Since 2017, renewable energy technologies including solar PV and battery storage have incurred substantial business rates following a change in the methodology applied to equipment classified as 'Plant and Machinery'. As such, business rates now consume around 40% of the potential cost savings of installing solar, undermining the business case, and creating a major barrier to the uptake of the technology. This impacts businesses across a variety of sectors, including retail, manufacturing and tourism.

The UK has approximately 250,000 hectares of south-facing commercial roof space, which could be utilised in the deployment of over 30GW of solar PV, allowing businesses to reduce their energy costs and lower their carbon footprint. However, many companies have mothballed plans to deploy solar on their roofs following the 2017 revaluation, which has led to a rates increase of more than 800% in some cases. This has led to many wasted opportunities.

This will continue to be the case until the matter is resolved. The current business rates regime is in effect penalising those companies that are working to reduce their climate impact.

We ask you to address this situation as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hewett



Chief Executive  
**Solar Trade Association**



James Talman  
CEO  
**National Federation of Roofing Contractors**



Julian David  
Chief Executive  
**techUK**



Helen Dickenson OBE  
Chief Executive  
**British Retail Consortium**



Melanie Leech  
Chief Executive  
**British Property Federation**



Caroline Gumble  
Chief Executive  
Chartered Institute of Building



Julie Hirigoyen  
Chief Executive  
UK Green Building Council



James Calder  
Chief Executive  
Society of Independent Brewers



Rennie Schafer  
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Self Storage Association



Steven Davies  
CEO  
Lighting Industry Association



Steve Bratt  
CEO  
Electrical Contractors Association



Jeff Moody  
Managing Director  
British Independent Retailers Association



Brian Madderson  
Chairman  
Petrol Retailers Association



Pam Murell  
Chief Executive  
Cast Metals Federation



Peter Caplehorn  
Chief Executive  
Construction Products Association



Ian Cass  
Managing Director  
Forum of Private Business



Russell Bertie  
Chief Executive  
Federation of Environmental Trade Associations

