# Construction industry warns solar panel mandate could hinder England’s new home targets



Plans to mandate solar panels on nearly all new homes in England have raised concerns within the construction industry regarding their viability, particularly in relation to the government's target of building 1.5 million homes by the end of the current parliamentary term. The initiative, detailed under the upcoming Future Homes Standard set to take effect in 2027, could impose significant additional burdens leading to project delays and increased costs, according to industry sources.

Currently, the government is consulting with the construction sector about implementing the mandate, which would require about 80 per cent of new homes to feature solar panels covering roughly 40 per cent of the building's ground area. An estimated 19 per cent of homes may have fewer solar panels due to various exemptions, such as roof pitch or home orientation, with only a small fraction exempt entirely.

The financial implications of this policy are notable. While the cost of adding solar panels is projected to increase the price of a detached home by around £4,000, proponents suggest homeowners could recover this expense within four years through reduced energy bills. Nevertheless, the building industry expresses apprehension that such increases may deter developers. A source within the sector stated, "All of these decisions on different policy areas will have an impact on the ability to deliver homes," underscoring that escalating costs could affect development decisions.

Neil Jefferson, chief executive of the Home Builders Federation, commented on the environmental context, stating, "New-build homes emit on average a third of the carbon of an equivalent-sized older properties, saving residents of new homes thousands of pounds in energy bills." He cautioned, however, that government regulations should consider the various designs and contexts of new homes when determining solar panel requirements.

Concerns extend beyond the financial aspects to include the operational challenges posed by the policy's implementation. Industry officials warn that the process for seeking exemptions could become complex and overwhelming, particularly as many local council planning departments face significant staffing shortages. One insider referred to the prospect of managing individual exemptions as an "absolute nightmare."

The Prime Minister's office, addressing these industry fears, maintains that the initiative will not compromise the goal of delivering 1.5 million homes. A spokesperson clarified, "We’re obviously doing this in consultation with the industry," reinforcing that the details of the Future Homes Standard will clarify these concerns when published.

In summary, while the proposed solar panel requirement aims to enhance energy efficiency and support the UK's net-zero carbon targets, it presents significant challenges that could impact the feasibility of new housing developments. The construction industry’s response indicates a pressing need for thoughtful consideration of how these regulations may affect homebuilding viability in England.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://www.mcsfoundation.org.uk/news/reaction-government-must-mandate-solar-on-new-homes/> - This article features a response from the MCS Foundation, urging the UK government to mandate solar panels on all new homes to reduce energy bills and contribute to net-zero goals, highlighting the missed opportunity if solar panels are not made mandatory.
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* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMigAFBVV95cUxOa05jcUhMVVptVVV3MVlJVmMyaFRlT1BlSW9DbEY0S20xcURYd1pVZHlhMXBxZTl0N3Y1S0ZhUW5jajBPRy10WjdnV2JRb0xkaFE4ZzVzbEVPQkhIaHFNbE9LZDVlZ1NWamUxYUNDaHNMakdqdVlPVUJSQ20yYnFjNQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data