# Lewknor Solar Farm

# Why We Need More Solar

### **South Oxfordshire Climate Emergency**

South Oxfordshire Council has declared both a climate and an ecological emergency, describing both as the "greatest challenges we face". To address this, the Council has adopted a Climate Action Plan, which sets out how South Oxfordshire Council aims to be carbon neautral by 2025, and a carbon neutral district by 2030.

Renewable energy projects, such as our proposals for Lewknor Solar Farm, will make a significant contribution towards these goals.

#### **Energy Security and Cost of Living**

Renewable energy is proven to be one of the most cost-effective methods of producing reliable, non-carbon emitting power, whilst reducing the UK's reliance on foreign imported electricity and helping protect our energy security.

According to the International Energy Agency, solar energy now provides the "cheapest... electricity in history". According to intelligence company Rystad, developing new solar energy projects would be ten times cheaper than new gas-fired power stations in the long term. This means that new solar farms like Lewknor can help drive down the cost of generating electricity and tackle the ongoing energy crisis.

### **Delivering Net Zero**

The UK Government has made a legally binding commitment to achieve Net Zero – this means having a power grid with no carbon emissions and moving away from fossil fuels. This can only be achieved with a significant increase in reliable renewable energy, including solar.

In addition, the UK government has also set an ambitious target to increase solar capacity nearly fivefold to 70 gigawatts (GW) by 2035 as part of its broader plans to transition to cleaner, more affordable, and secure energy sources. This commitment is a crucial step toward achieving net zero emissions and ensuring energy independence.

<sup>1</sup>According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2020. <sup>2</sup> "New solar capacity 10 times cheaper than gas, says Rystad", PV Magazine.



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