



# Photovoltaic panels stolen from fields

Are solar panels stolen?

By way of example, in August, solar panels worth approximately £10,500 were stolen from an energy farm in Northamptonshire. Solar panel theft is not limited to large scale and commercial solar farms either - homes in remote areas are also vulnerable, with thieves reportedly swiping panels from people's roofs. Why?

Is solar theft a problem in the UK?

Rural theft has long been an issue in the UK. It is a sinister practice, with repercussions that are as much emotional, as they are commercial. After all, for a small farm, solar panels are a huge investment. Not only that, but if solar theft is not brought under control, it will delay the country from reaching its net zero goals.

Are criminals looking at solar panels?

And alongside machinery, recent figures from the UK police suggest criminals have set their sights on another lucrative opportunity - solar panels. Solar is currently only a small part of the UK's energy mix, but its share is growing, with estimates from Solar Energy UK suggesting the total solar capacity stands at 15 GW.

How much property was stolen from UK solar sites last year?

Speakers at the event, held in Telford, in the west of England, appealed for solar site owners to report all incidents of criminal damage, no matter how small. Taylor said GBP 574,300 (\$691,500) worth of property was reported stolen from UK solar sites last year, but noted that the real figure is likely higher.

So, while stolen panels are bad enough, this is far from the only threat to solar farm operators. Residential solar theft, by contrast, remains rare. Most homeowners live on or near the ...

The stolen Severn Trent panels found in Newcastle-under-Lyme had been marked with DeterTech's SmartWater product - rare earth chemicals invisible to the naked eye that glow green ...

2023: An estimated 75,000 to 100,000 solar panels were stolen from a Northumberland solar farm in a single organised criminal operation. 2023: 80 solar PV panels valued at over £10,000 were ...

The growth of solar energy has led to a surge in solar panel and cabling theft, driven by the rising value of metals like copper. Photovoltaic farms, ...

August 2019: Two solar sites in the UK were hit. The thieves got away with one-hundred and sixty-eight solar panels, valued altogether at more than \$1 million United States dollars. ...

Solar Panel Marking and Registration: Marking or engraving your solar panels with unique identifiers and registering them with relevant authorities can make it easier to track and recover ...

The valuable materials and equipment found on a solar project site make them prime target for criminal activity.



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The growth of solar energy has led to a surge in solar panel and cabling theft, driven by the rising value of metals like copper. Photovoltaic farms, often located in remote areas, face ...

A major theft of 38 solar panels in Manzanillo, Cuba, highlights a growing national problem. Discover the details of these crimes and what authorities are doing to combat this rising threat.

From copper wiring at substations to solar panels in the middle of remote fields, energy infrastructure has become a prime target. The costs are staggering--not just in stolen materials, but ...

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