WinACC

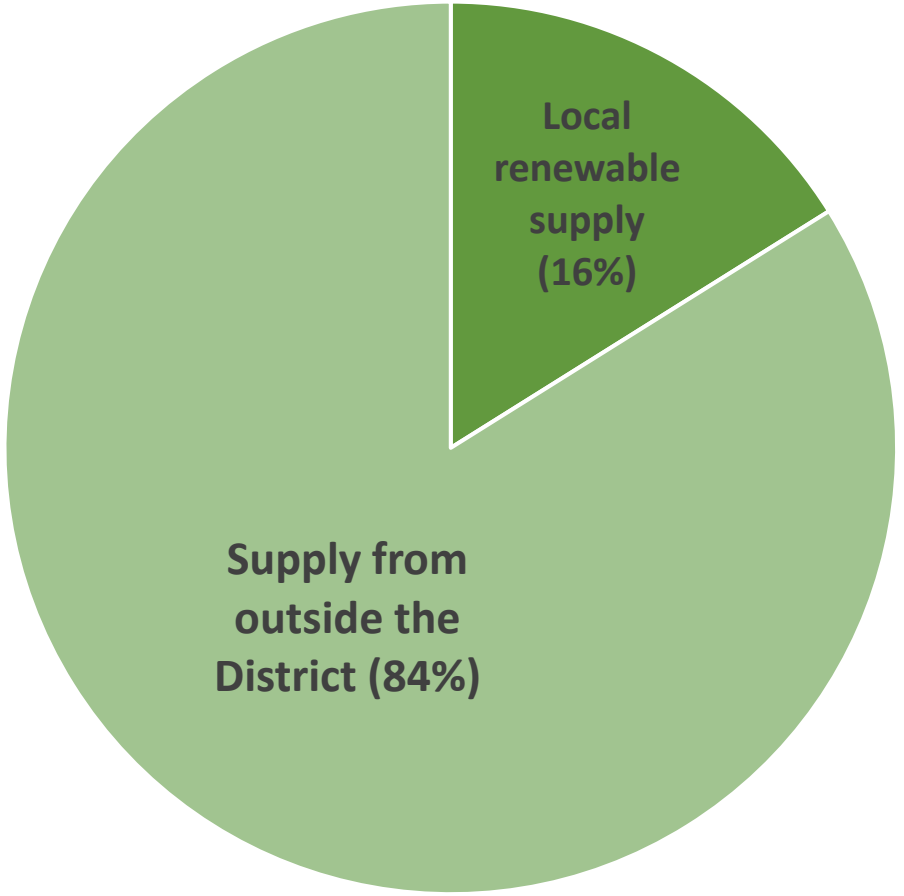


Solar opportunities for local businesses

A role for the WeCAN Network?

Note: in the context of this presentation, “local businesses” include all categories of employer and landowner

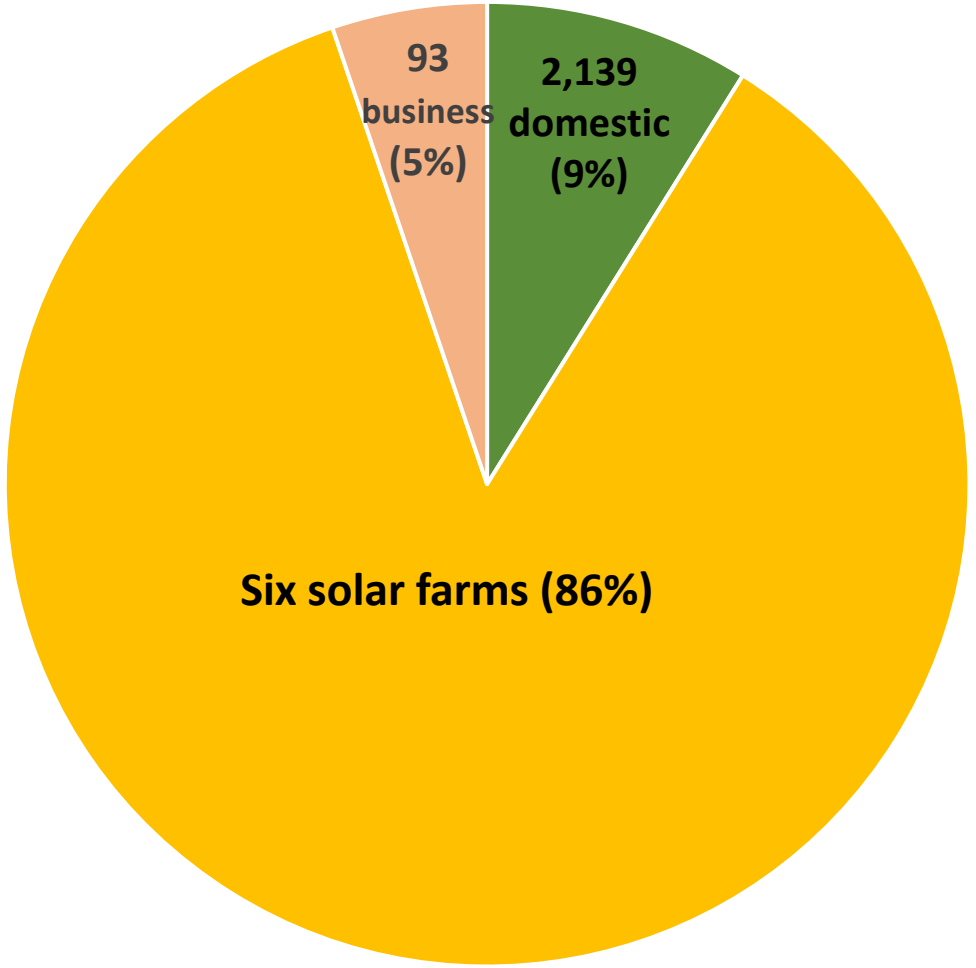
2020 contribution of local renewable energy to District demand for electricity



Notes

- local renewable supply is 98% solar
- 2021 data due to be published December 2022
- Source: BEIS

2020 profile of District solar generation



Notes:

- Source BEIS. These sub-national datasets have been reviewed in recent months and are liable to change.
- The new solar farm at Three Maids Hill is due to become operational imminently
- There is potential for wind energy in our District, if planning restrictions are eased.

Commercial solar: District market data

Number of Businesses:

over 5,000 entities pay business rates
there are over 6,000 non-domestic meters

Solar installations (2020):

Number:	93
Average:	52kW
Largest:	Sparsholt College (633kW)

In the pipeline (large):

Portsmouth Water at World's End Pumping Station (1,500kW – ground-based)
Safran Helicopter Engines at Concorde Way, Segensworth (500kW)

Very provisional 2035 target:

Number (new):	550
Average:	100kW

This target would deliver 6% of the projected demand for electricity in Winchester District in 2035.

Current UK market for commercial solar

Business case

- Reduce energy costs
- Reduce exposure to national grid prices and volatility
- Visible commitment to net zero

The energy crisis has strengthened the business case significantly.
Electrification of heat, vehicles and operations will increase consumption of electricity.

- New commercial solar capacity is **currently doubling each year**. The British Energy Security Strategy envisages that solar capacity will **increase fivefold by 2035**.
- Most tenants and owners of commercial property with suitable roof-space are aware of the opportunity for solar – through **mailshots and cold-calling**
- There is a **bewildering range of financial models** and legal arrangements for new installation. **Payback periods may be around 5 years**. The models include an option involving no capital outlay.
- Database of **certified installers** is maintained by MCS https://mcscertified.com/. A Corporate Buyers' Guide is published by Solar Energy UK https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/corporate-buyers-guide/.

Barriers to commercial solar

- In a recession there are **competing demands for business capital**
- **Capacity of the national grid** to receive new supply connections is limited, especially for projects exceeding 250kW
- **Legal arrangements** between owners and occupiers add cost and complexity
- **Tenancy leases are often too short** in relation to payback periods for the investment
- The financial model is **optimum for a business that can consume all of the solar energy generated**. This is rarely the case for offices, warehousing and many farm buildings
- **Roof space may be unsuitable**, due to alignment, incline, materials or structure
- **Planning constraints** in conservation areas and national parks

Questions to discuss

How can local community groups and activists encourage local businesses to invest in solar?

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What support can WinACC provide?