

Case Study: Westcott Venture Park



[Westcott Venture Park](#), the largest business park in Buckinghamshire, has announced major plans for the first unsubsidised solar photovoltaic power plant in the UK.

The ground-breaking project will have an installed capacity exceeding 15 Megawatts (MW) and cover some 76 acres within Westcott Venture Park. It will be connected via a new cable connection to the local 33kV grid and include provision for adding battery energy storage later.

The project will make Westcott the first carbon-negative business park in the UK, since the solar plant will generate more power than its tenants use each year – even after allowing for future growth. In doing so, it will make a massive contribution to reducing the Park's carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability.

In 2011, Westcott established its first 1.6 MWp solar plant, comprising 6,102 solar panels over 10 acres. It has generated over 11GWh to date avoiding over 4,300 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. The new project represents a ten-fold increase and will provide an estimated internal rate of return to the investors of in excess of seven percent.

The enlargement will be project-managed by solar specialists WolfeWare, who developed the existing solar plant at Westcott. Leading UK solar contractors BSR EPC Ltd are working on the detailed design and construction.