

## Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 12 December 2024, vote taken on Motion 2 as amended.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Stringer and seconded by Councillor Simon Harley.

Motion Text: 'Energy Secretary Ed Miliband has promised to triple the amount of solar power in the UK by 2030, including a 'rooftop solar revolution' to encourage builders and empower homeowners to install solar panels on new and existing buildings.

This council recognises Suffolk will have a role to play in fully reaching the government target of 70GW of solar capacity by 2035, and renewable energy has the potential to reduce future increases in residents' energy bills. However, current planning policy as applied by the planning inspectorate, Secretary of State and an uncoordinated approach to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are creating significant challenges for our rural communities, including solar farms.

This council will welcome consultation on policies that would ensure solar installations are "roof before rural", as many communities feel that East Anglia is seeing too much of our most productive and valuable land set aside for solar farms without clear community benefit, while too many new buildings are allowed to be constructed without the benefits of solar generation. There also needs to be a clear plan to retrofit existing buildings to take most advantage of the opportunities our towns and urban areas present.

This council believes that insufficient consideration is currently being given to upgrading the local electricity distribution grid to enable rooftop and brownfield solar schemes, such as over car parks.

Furthermore, the Council registers its concern that steps taken to date by the government and the solar industry to remove links to modern day slavery, particularly Uighur forced labour camps in Xinjiang, from the solar supply chain are insufficient and unacceptable.

This council agrees to write to the Secretary of State to outline these concerns, and to seek assurances that our best quality agricultural land is protected by ensuring existing and future developments play their part in reaching our sustainable energy targets.

This council will also

- a) continue to review its own buildings and assets to facilitate the installation of rooftop solar panels wherever practical, including libraries, family hubs and buildings on county farms
- b) work through Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to ensure any such installations by local authorities in Suffolk have the best possible supply chain guarantees.'

<b>Total results</b>	
For	54
Against	1
Abstain	1

### Conservative Group

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce	For		
Stephen Burroughes			
Nadia Cenci	For		
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers	For		
Judy Cloke	For		
Andy Drummond	For		
Robert Everitt			
Philip Faircloth-Mutton	For		
James Finch	For		
Jessica Fleming			Abstain
Mick Fraser	For		
David Goldsmith	For		
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant	For		
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks	For		
Rachel Hood	For		
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Michael Ladd	For		
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd	For		
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum	For		
Patti Mulcahy	For		
Sam Murray	For		
David Nettleton			
Alexander Nicoll	For		
Colin Noble			
Kay Oakes			
James Reeder	For		
Andrew Reid	For		
Debbie Richards	For		
David Roach	For		
Keith Robinson	For		

Richard Rout	For		
Richard Smith MVO	For		
Karen Soons			
Heike Sowa	For		
Joanna Spicer	For		
Lance Stanbury	For		
Jamie Starling			
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro			
Paul West	For		
Steve Wiles	For		
Nathan Wilson	For		

### **Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Seamus Bennett	For		
Jessie Carter			
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley	For		
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay	For		
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk			
Andy Mellen	For		
Penny Otton	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping	For		
Keith Welham	For		

**Labour Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Sarah Adams	For		
Rob Bridgeman	For		
Peter Byatt	For		
Elizabeth Farrow			
Sandy Martin	For		
Lucy Smith			

**Ungrouped Independent Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Peter Thompson	For		

**Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Christopher Hudson		Against	