

Agent: Allan Macaskill

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Argyll & Bute Council
Kilmory
LOCHGILPHEAD
PA31 8RT

REVIEW REFERENCE NO: 14/003/LRB

The applicant is Mr Iain MacKinnon, Lochview, Kilmaluig, Isle of Tiree PA77 6XB and the Local Review Body have requested a commentary on the solar gain of the proposed property.

If the dwelling house was positioned as proposed in Planning Application Reference No: 13/02202/PP the windows/openings of the kitchen, dining room, master bedroom, utility and two bathrooms would all benefit from the additional light and warmth from the Southerly aspect. However if the dwelling house was located facing the road the gable end, which contains no windows, would not benefit from any potential solar gain.

The proposed orientation would also benefit from the installation of solar panels in the future because there would be a large expanse of South facing roofspace. This would enable the solar units to be more effective.

Experts call for solar panels on 250,000 roofs to hit green targets

Report highlights economic and renewable benefits

HELEN McARDLE

NEARLY 20 per cent of Scotland's electricity needs could be met through solar power, say experts.

A report presented at the Scottish Parliament heard that fitting solar panels on 250,000 homes north of the Border could contribute significantly to the Government's renewable energy targets.

Researchers, including scientists from Edinburgh University, business leaders and public sector experts, have contributed to the report, which sets out how Scotland could benefit from solar power.

The study was supported by the Scottish Institute For Solar Energy Research, the Scottish Solar Energy Group, the Energy Technology Partnership, AES Solar and the Scottish Universities Insight Institute.

Dr Neil Robertson, of Edinburgh University's School Of Chemistry, said: "The plummeting cost means large-scale solar power is coming to Scotland whether we realise it or not.

"The key priority is to recognise this, so we can start planning to maximise the social, environmental and business benefits it will bring us."

The report concluded 16.6 per cent of Scotland's electricity demands could be met by fitting solar panels on a quarter of a million roofs, and could ease the

plight of one in three Scottish households that struggle to provide themselves with enough heat and hot water.

Experts say harnessing energy from the sun on the roofs of south-facing buildings could have significant economic, environmental and social impacts.

The report's findings were outlined at an event to raise awareness of solar technology and its benefits. Organisers called

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on Government, industry and academia to work together on solar energy strategies.

The scientists say many people are not yet aware solar power can be generated effectively in Scotland and point out that Germany – with a climate similar to Scotland – produces more energy using solar panels than any other country.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said the current target was for the equivalent of 100 per cent of the country's demand for electricity to be met from renewable sources of energy by 2020.

She added: "We support the

growth in solar energy alongside other renewables as part of a wider, balanced electricity mix.

"Individual proposals would be subject to appropriate planning checks, taking into account any impacts on matters such as the built and natural heritage, nearby properties and aviation."

Since 2001, the cost of generating electricity using solar panels has fallen more than 70% and on current estimates it is expected to become the cheapest way of harnessing renewable energy by 2025.

However, previous attempts to boost the solar power industry have ended in controversy.

In December 2011, Westminster halved grants for households that install solar panels to 21p per kilowatt-hour, saying the old tariff rate of 43p was unsustainable. Under the "feed-in tariffs" programme, people with solar panels are paid for the electricity they generate.

Solar companies subsequently took the Department of Energy to court and successfully argued the cuts were illegal, forcing the UK Government to pay tens of millions to households who installed the panels between December 2011 and March 2012.



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