

Tel :07528 493181

Info@strettonclimatecare.org.uk

www.strettonclimatecare.org.uk

Charity No. 1159816

Energy Advice Drop In
The Wellbeing Centre
Church Stretton
Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00



INFORMATION SHEET No. 49 DATE OF ISSUE May 2026

Plug-in Solar P.V. Electricity panels

The U.K. Government has recently approved the use of plug-in P.V. panels and an approved list is expected to be issued in July 2026.

They will consist of 1 or two panels with up to a maximum output of 800 watts (to comply with U.K. safety regulations and prevent circuit overload,) {2026 wiring regulations BS 7671 Amendment 4} with a built in mini inverter (to convert their electricity from D.C to A.C.) and 13 amp plug. They can be plugged directly into the home electricity circuit.

Some systems also come with a small storage battery (1.785kWh). Price then approx. £1,200

Advantages.

- Ease of installation: No electrician or major work required.
- Flexibility: Portable and suitable for renters or flat owners.
- Cost-effective entry into solar: Typical kits cost around £400 and can save £70–£150 per year
- Particularly suitable for those at home during the day
- Will be available for purchase from D.I.Y. stores and certain supermarkets, along with on-line purchase.
- Environmentally friendly: Reduces reliance on grid electricity and lowers carbon footprint

Limitations.

- ❖ Will only generate 500 – 800 kWh per year, but enough to cover background household base load e.g. lights, fridge, cordless phone base unit, router etc. during sunny daylight hours.
- ❖ Will not work during a power cut but must be fitted with anti islanding device to stop any generation or power from a backup battery getting back into the grid during an outage.
- ❖ Household wiring must be in good condition and able to take the load. (Recommended a qualified electrician checks house wiring before purchase.)
- ❖ Need to consider if there is a suitable place to hang or mount the panels which receives direct sunlight and is not shadowed for several hours a day.
- ❖ Unless you purchase a battery as well, the energy can only be consumed when it is produced and if you don't use much electricity during the daytime the personal benefit may be limited although it will feed into the grid.

Common warning indicators suggesting household wiring might need attention before purchase include:

- ❖ Loose, damaged, or cracked sockets
- ❖ Scorch marks or discolouration around outlets
- ❖ Plugs or sockets that feel unusually warm
- ❖ Circuit breakers that trip frequently

- ❖ Old-style fuse boxes rather than modern consumer unit
- ❖ RCD frequently tripping

(It is recommended household electrical systems are checked approx. every five years and after any major electrical extension work.

N.B.

- 1 Must inform DNO (District Network Operator within 28 days of plugging in a “Plug In” Solar Array and complete a G98 form.)**
- 2 Many insurers treat portable plug-in solar systems as contents rather than as a structural modification to the building. Insurance Companies will expect clients to “take all reasonable precautions.” Insurers may ask whether the system is connected by a registered electrician and whether a G98 notification has been completed. Also wise to inform the building’s owner if renting.**

29.05.26.

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>