
1 Environmental standards for new housing: parliamentary and press coverage

1.1 Parliamentary material

PQs

[New Build Homes: Construction Standards](#)

Asked by: Ellie Chowns (North Herefordshire) (Green) | **Party:** Green Party

Given the Government's ambitious house building plans, the energy crisis and the climate crisis, will the Minister bring forward legislation in the forthcoming planning and infrastructure Bill to ensure all new houses have solar panels on their roofs as standard, so they can generate their own power, and net zero building standards are brought forward as soon as possible, so that homes are well insulated, warm and cheap to heat?

Answered by: Rushanara Ali | **Party:** Labour | **Department:** Housing, Communities and Local Government

The Government have set out very ambitious plans on home building and on green issues. The future home building programme will address those issues; we look forward to working with colleagues on the issue.

02 Sep 2024 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 753 c10

[Housing: Renewable Energy](#)

Asked by: Baroness Hodgson of Abinger | **Party:** Conservative

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to recommend the installation of (1) solar panels, and (2) small wind turbines on all new houses.

Answering member: Baroness Taylor of Stevenage | **Party:** Labour | **Department:** Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Future standards next year will set our new homes and buildings on a path that moves away from relying on volatile fossil fuels and ensures they are fit for a net zero future. This will support our ambition that the 1.5 million homes we will build over the course of this parliament will be high quality, well designed and sustainable. That is why the Deputy Prime Minister and I are clear that rooftop solar and other renewable technology should play an important role, where appropriate, as part of the future standards for homes and buildings.

02 Aug 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL175

[Buildings: Solar Power](#)

Asked by: Cooper, Daisy | **Party:** Liberal Democrat

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, by what date she intends to make it a requirement that all new homes and buildings should have solar panels as default except in defined cases; and by what date she will issue guidance as to those defined cases.

Answering member: Matthew Pennycook | **Party:** Labour
| **Department:** Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

As set out in our manifesto, the Government will take steps to ensure we are building more high-quality, well-designed and sustainable homes. We will publish our response to the Future Homes and Buildings Standards 2023 consultation in due course.

29 Jul 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 831

[Solar Power: Housing](#)

Asked by: Cooper, Daisy | **Party:** Liberal Democrat

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will take steps enable households with solar panels and battery storage to receive the rate of wholesale electricity as payment for excess electricity exported to the grid for the next three years.

Answering member: Michael Shanks | **Party:** Labour
| **Department:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Both rooftop solar and battery storage will play a crucial role in the Government's mission to make the UK a clean energy superpower, by saving families money on their bills and giving us energy security.

Over 1.2 million homes now have solar PV installed, and the Government believes rooftop solar on new homes and buildings will, where appropriate, play an important role in the drive for solar, delivering cleaner energy and lower bills to millions of households and businesses.

29 Jul 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 829

[Heat Pumps](#)

Asked by: Jones, Mr David

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, with reference to her Department's policy paper entitled Heat pump net zero investment roadmap, published on 5 April 2023, what recent assessment she has made of (a) the level of progress toward the target of at least 600,000 heat pumps a year being installed by 2028 and (b) the potential role of hybrid heat pumps in meeting that target.

Answered by: Amanda Solloway | Department: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The Government remains fully committed to supporting the transition to low-carbon heating. This includes the aim to grow the market to 600,000 heat pump installations per year by 2028.

A range of measures are supporting this, including schemes like the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, the Energy Company Obligation and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. From 2025, we expect heat pumps will become the primary heating technology for new homes under the Future Homes Standard.

The Government consulted on the role of hybrid heat pumps through the consultation on 'Improving Boiler Standards and Efficiency' and will set out our response in due course.

05 Mar 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 16300

[Housing: Accessibility Standards](#)

Asked by: Baroness Meacher (CB) | **Party:** Crossbench

My Lords, what environmental standards do the Government require of all new homes, as they would benefit everybody and the planet?

Oral questions - Supplementary

Answering member: Baroness Penn (Con) | **Party:** Conservative

The noble Baroness makes a good point. We should look at these standards in the context of a raft of new building safety regulations and standards that have been taken forward in recent years, and the need for housebuilders to adapt to them. There was a significant uplift to the environmental standards in 2021 and we have just launched a consultation on the future homes standard, which will be brought in by 2025 and ensure that all new housing is effectively net-zero ready.

05 Feb 2024 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | House of Lords chamber | 835 c1446

[Housing: Accessibility Standards](#)

Asked by: Baroness Butler-Sloss (CB) | **Party:** Crossbench

My Lords, why is there no requirement to have solar panels on new buildings, particularly houses? Around me in Devon, thousands of houses are being built, not one of which has a solar panel. I should declare that I have had solar panels on my roof since 2009.

Answered by: Baroness Penn (Con) | **Party:** Conservative

As I said, we had the interim uplift to energy efficiency standards in 2021, and we have just started a consultation on the future homes standard. That sets out two models that could achieve the standard, one with solar panels and

one without. The reality is that the Government have focused on the outcomes that need to be achieved and can be achieved by a number of technologies. Those outcomes are consistent with our net zero commitments and targets, and we are committed to taking them forward.

05 Feb 2024 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Lords | House of Lords chamber | 835 c1447

[Housing: Electricity and Renewable Energy](#)

Asked by: Maskell, Rachael | **Party:** Labour · Cooperative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make it his policy to require new developments to use (a) electric and (b) renewable energy.

Answering member: Lee Rowley | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Government is currently consulting out the Future Homes Standard - see [here](#).

25 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10636

[Housing: Solar Power](#)

Asked by: Jenkin, Sir Bernard | **Party:** Conservative

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has received representations on the practice of house builders prohibiting in perpetuity new homeowners from installing solar panels on their homes.

Answering member: Lee Rowley | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

I am grateful to my Hon Friend for bringing correspondence about housebuilders prohibiting the fitting of solar panels post-sale to my attention. Renewable energy, such as that generated from solar panels, will contribute to the objective of getting to net zero, so we are grateful for you flagging this concern. The Department will review this matter further.

11 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5439

[Housing: Energy](#)

Asked by: Lord Teverson | **Party:** Liberal Democrat

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to incorporate references to (1) solar gain and (2) solar shading, in the design requirements for new-build homes in order to mitigate the effects of overheating.

Answering member: Baroness Penn | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Part O of the Building Regulations was introduced in 2021 to reduce the risk of overheating in new residential buildings . Part O came into effect in June 2022. This means that new residential buildings must now be designed in such a way as to reduce overheating. This requirement is met by designing and constructing the building to limit unwanted solar gains in summer (including through shading) and by providing an adequate means of removing excess heat.

In existing residential buildings, insulation measures can help reduce risks of overheating, if correctly installed and with adequate ventilation. This is why all energy efficiency measures installed under current government funded schemes require installers to be Trustmark registered and measures must also be installed in accordance with the Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2030 and PAS 2035 standards, protecting the consumer against poor workmanship. PAS 2035/2030 requires a whole house approach to home retrofit projects and ensures that the risks of unintended consequences, such as mould and condensation due to poor ventilation, are minimised.

We are also considering the issues surrounding overheating in homes created through a material change of use (i.e. homes created by converting another building type, such as an office block) and whether changes to the Building Regulations are appropriate. We intend to consult on our approach to overheating in these homes as part of our consultation on the Future Homes Standard.

Details of further work to determine risk and guide interventions related to overheating, including in existing homes, is set out in the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) report, published in July 2023.

22 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL151

[Housing: Standards](#)

Asked by: Aldous, Peter | **Party:** Conservative

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the timing of the publication of the Future Homes Standard technical consultation on the number of new homes that will be built.

Answering member: Lee Rowley | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

We remain committed to bringing the Future Homes Standard into force in 2025 as planned and will publish a full technical consultation this year.

A full impact assessment on the Future Homes Standard will be carried out ahead of implementation and published online. The impact assessment will consider any housing viability impacts as a result of this policy. Government's intention is to publish a draft impact assessment alongside the consultation in 2023.

14 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 774

[Natural England: Correspondence](#)

Asked by: Lucas, Caroline | **Party:** Green Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will publish all correspondence sent between Natural England and her Department on changes to regulations on nutrient neutrality and the delivery of new homes since 1 May 2023; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Trudy Harrison | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions by Government and its Arm's Length Bodies are not normally disclosed. More broadly, I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement of 4 September 2023, HCWS1003, outlining the benefits from the Government's proposed reforms which will improve water quality and help deliver more homes.

21 Sep 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 198699

[Housing: Solar Power](#)

Asked by: Jones, Darren | **Party:** Labour

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department has assessed the potential merits of introducing legislation to make solar panel installation on new build homes compulsory.

Answering member: Lee Rowley | **Party:** Conservative
| **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Renewable energy, such as that generated from rooftop solar panels, will make a significant contribution to achieving net zero. In June 2022 an uplift to the energy efficiency standards for new buildings came into force and we will consult this year on the Future Homes Standard. The standards are performance based, meaning we do not mandate any particular technologies, but we expect that in order to comply with the uplift most developers will choose to install solar panels on new homes.

11 Sep 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 196371

Debates

[Housing: Modern Methods of Construction](#)

05 Sep 2024 | Proceeding contributions | House of Lords Parliamentary proceedings | 839 cc1259-1282

[Housing: Young People](#)

05 Sep 2024 | Parliamentary proceedings | 836 cc2208-2242

[Building Homes](#)

30 Jul 2024 | Proceeding contributions | Parliamentary proceedings | 752 cc1179-1200

[Impact of Environmental Regulations on Development \(Built Environment Committee Report\)](#)

19 Apr 2024 | Proceeding contributions | House of Lords | House of Lords chamber | 837 cc1175-1201

[Nutrient Neutrality: Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#)

5 Sep 2023 | Parliamentary proceedings | 737 cc199-212

Statements

[Solar and protecting our Food Security and Best and Most Versatile \(BMV\) Land](#)

15 May 2024 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS466

[Planning - Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update](#)

13 Dec 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS123

[Housing Update](#)

04 Sep 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS1003

See also:

- [Nutrient Neutrality: Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#)

05 Sep 2023 | Parliamentary proceedings

- [Natural England: Correspondence](#)

21 Sep 2023 | Written questions

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Press coverage

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

The Standard, September 2024

[All new homes should have solar panels, Green Party MP says](#)

FT, 23 July 2024

[UK ministers set to change environmental rules to boost housebuilding](#)

Architects' Journal, 17 July 2024

[PTE says its pilot scheme shows Future Homes Standard is deliverable](#)

Carbon Brief, 15 July 2024

[Labour's 'rooftop revolution' to deliver solar power to millions of UK homes](#)

Guardian, 13 July 2024

[Labour's 'rooftop revolution' to deliver solar power to millions of UK homes](#)

Inside Housing, 27 June 2024

[Housing 2024: Vistry warns cutting solar panels from Future Homes Standard could double energy bills](#)

Independent, 26 June 2024

[Future homes standard 'right for tackling cost-of-living crisis' – Ed Miliband](#)

Telegraph, 5 March 2024

[Eco-fanatics are creating a new housing crisis](#)

Guardian, 12 February 2024

[England brings in biodiversity rules to force builders to compensate for loss of nature](#)

Business Green news, 12 February 2024

['Substantial potential': Biodiversity Net Gain rules come into force in England](#)

Telegraph, 25 January 2024

[Punishing homebuyers is not the answer to Britain's wildlife problem](#)

Homebuilding, 8 January 2024

[Heat pumps and solar panels could be mandatory in new homes from 2025](#)

Guardian, 5 October 2023

[Delayed consultation on net zero construction 'a blow to UK homeowners'](#)

BBC news, 21 September 2023

[Get a grip on greener housebuilding and pollution rules, government told](#)

Local Government Chronicle, 29 August 2023

[Gove acts to end nutrient neutrality block on new homes](#)

Housing Today, 29 August 2023

[Housebuilders welcome shake up of nutrient neutrality rules](#)