

## Norway commercial solar

The solar power industry is experiencing robust growth in Norway, driven by the government's ambitious target to increase solar power production to 8 TWh, a 20% rise, by 2030. Policies initiated by the Norwegian Parliament, including the requirement to use solar power or local energy in state-owned construction projects, are behind this growth. This policy is likely to be extended to include any new construction projects, and upcoming regulations are expected to further incentivize the adoption of solar energy in new and existing buildings.

Transitioning to renewable energy is imperative in combating global warming. Norway has relied on hydroelectric power, capitalizing on its unique topography and climate. However, challenges from environmental and Indigenous groups have limited the expansion of wind and hydro power.

To maximize the benefits of PV solar plants, it's essential to connect the system to the national grid. Integration allows for the sale of excess energy during periods of high production and the purchase of energy during less sunny periods.

In Norway, a "plus-customer" is defined as an energy customer who both uses and produces electricity at their own connection point, with power fed into the connection point not exceeding 100 kW at any given time. Plus-customers are exempt from fixed charges for feed-in and grid rent for consumption covered by self-generated electricity. This exemption can result in significant savings on grid rent.

Production between 1 and 2 GWh qualifies the producer for a simplified sales license, entailing fewer formal requirements, including exemptions from special accounts submissions, and specific financial and technical annual reporting. If the production exceeds 2 GWh, an ordinary sales license is required, and a range of comprehensive formal reporting requirements applies.

While many landlords in the commercial real estate market may aim for the plus-customer setup, the 100 kW limit has faced criticism for being too low. Nevertheless, it still offers substantial possible savings, and there's a possibility that this limit may be revised upwards in the future. A landlord with a large property portfolio should also look into organizing PV solar systems separately for each property/SPV to stay within production limits.

The regulatory framework for PV solar power in commercial properties can be described as fragmented. Instead of a unified set of regulations, it exists in pieces, collectively forming the framework. The specific regulations also vary based on the type and scale of the PV solar system. Typically, larger installations are subject to more extensive regulations compared to smaller ones.

PV solar systems come in two primary types: integrated and surface-mounted. Integrated panels serve a dual

purpose, generating electricity while also acting as an integral part of the building's structure. Surface-mounted panels can be affixed to walls and roofs.

While smaller, surface-mounted panels may not require public permits, most PV solar systems will need them under the Planning and Building Act. It's advisable to consult with the local municipality for guidance, as practices may differ.

The regulations in the Planning and Building Act, along with the associated Regulations on technical requirements for construction works (TEK 17), outline specific and functional requirements. Developers must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with these technical standards. For new PV solar technology, which may not have pre-authorized solutions, a thorough verification is crucial to ensure compliance with formal requirements.

Building-integrated solar cell elements must meet the same standards as the component they replace. Safety considerations, especially for larger installations, require documentation of the additional load on the static design structure.

A PV solar power system is classified as an electrical installation and must adhere to the regulations regarding Low Voltage Electrical Installations and NEK 400. NEK 400 is the central reference with regulations laid down by the national electrical safety authority in this area (DSB).

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