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The proposed reduction in FIT could cripple the UK commercial solar energy market

The solar energy market is arguably facing one of its biggest challenges to date following the government's proposed reduction in feed-in tariffs. Huxley Associates' latest report: 'Solar energy: the likely impact of feed-in tariff reduction' highlights concerns around the potential impact of the reduced FIT.

With almost 54% (53.85%) of companies stating the new proposed tariffs are likely to have a negative impact on their business, it is clear to see organisations are bracing themselves for the impact.

According to the report, community and local programmes are also likely to feel significant impact from the changes. 77% of respondents felt that community projects are likely to be significantly reduced and programmes that are already in place are likely to be postponed or even cancelled. A further 68% agreed schools programmes would also be severely impacted. Many fear with reduced support for smaller solar energy projects community scale schemes will take much of the impact.

Lindsay Hartland, Manager at Huxley Associates' renewable energy division comments: 'Our research shows the review is on the whole being viewed negatively, with the majority expecting the changes to have a damaging impact on their business. The industry professionals we have spoken to are already beginning to see an impact with news of the review curbing investment and forcing them to look elsewhere for growth opportunities.'

Lindsay continues: 'The industry is holding its breath in the hope that the change is merely an evolutionary one and that the UK solar energy industry has the potential to be a vibrant and dynamic contributor to the UK's renewable energy development.'

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Notes to editors

About Huxley Associates

Huxley Associates is an international recruitment consultancy delivering expert permanent and contract recruitment services across the UK, Mainland Europe, Asia, North America and Australia.

Huxley Associates' renewable energy division focuses on developing strong and value driven relationships, priding itself on being a key recruitment partner for companies and professionals working within: Solar energy, Wind energy, Biomass and Wave & tidal energy.

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