

BalkonSolar e.V
Oberau 79, 79102 Freiburg, Germany
info@balkon.solar / <https://balkon.solar>

Michael Shanks MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Energy)

Level 3 /55 Whitehall
SW1A 2HP London
United Kingdom

by email: Michael.shanks.mp@parliament.uk

Freiburg, 20.6.25

Promotion of Plug-In-Pv-Systems in the UK

Dear Mr Shanks MP,

We are writing you concerning your plans to promote the use of plug-in-pv systems, as discussed in the Guardian Article "Britons could soon install balcony solar panels in flats and rental homes"¹. We see this aspiration with great joy and are willing to help.

We are passionate balcony solar enthusiasts from German-speaking countries with Freiburg roots. We are a registered non-profit with the purpose to enhance and promote the safe use of Plug-In-PV. We have been active in the promotion but also in the regulatory action around plug in pv in Germany since 2018 and also worked to achieve the legal right to Plug-In-PV for tenants and Co-Owners in 2024. So the new § 554 BGB of the German Civil Code and § 20 WEG of the law governing condominiums, includes a right to do this. We are also active within the standards and norming discussion in Germany and recently within the IEC.

We assume there are more than 3 Mio. Plug-In-PV systems working in Germany right now. We estimate this from more than 1 Mio systems installed and registered at the moment. From our experience only ½ to ⅓ of the systems will be registered, as there is very little benefit for consumers in actually registering their device.

Plug-In-PV systems are already legal and considered safe in many European Countries. For an overview please refer to the report published by Solar Power Europe on 12 March 2025.².

1

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jun/30/britons-could-soon-install-balcony-solar-panels-in-flats-and-rental-homes?CMP=share_btn_url

2

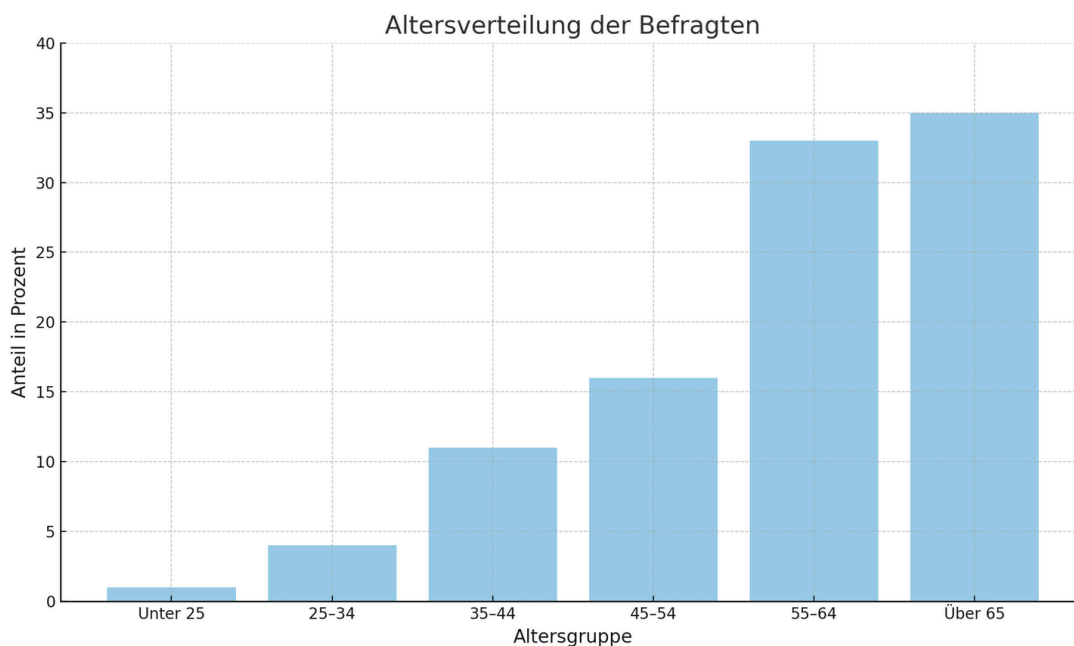
<https://www.solarpowereurope.org/press-releases/new-report-a-deep-dive-on-plug-in-solar-pv-a-fast-emerging-solar-segment>

We have a large body of experience of safe operations, not only from Germany but also France, Spain or Lithuania amongst others.³

We have some material on our website in English language in order to spread the news, especially with regard to DIY and second life use of older solar panels.⁴

The use of a Plug-in-PV system is often the first step for owners of a house to start investing into their home, e.g. often followed by a larger roof top or fence solar system, a heat pump or wallbox. It is also a way of making people enthusiastic about energy transition, who are not usually the core demographic of climate activism.

Auffällig ist dabei, dass **73% der Befragten in Einfamilienhäusern** wohnen. Wohnungen mit Balkon oder Mietwohnungen spielen nur eine untergeordnete Rolle. Diese Entwicklung könnte erklären, warum größere Systeme mit mehr als zwei Modulen mittlerweile die Mehrheit ausmachen.



Altersverteilung der befragten Nutzer

See for example this study “Balkonkraftwerk Markt 2025: Zahlen, Daten und Fakten” that clearly describes its measure taken by the 55+ demographic.⁵

We are open to work with stakeholders from civil society, industry and the government to further promote the use of Plug-in-Pv in the UK. If you desire so. We believe we can bring our experiences in step-by-step reduction of barriers and hurdles to the table, as well as our

³ See also our letter to the European Commission with an overview on regulation in some countries: <https://balkon.solar/news/2025/06/19/proposed-iec-norm-letter-to-european-commission/>

⁴ <https://balkon.solar/news/2025/05/28/solar-secondlife-magazine-draft/>

⁵ at <https://www.energiemagazin.com/balkonkraftwerk-statistiken-marktstudie/>

practical knowledge in installing and dealing with the industry, which we have been doing relentlessly since 2021.

Currently we are also working to find ways of making even small plug in battery systems grid friendly.⁶

Please forward this letter to the relevant institutions in the ministry and confirm that you received it.

Sincerely

Sebastian Müller
Member of the board