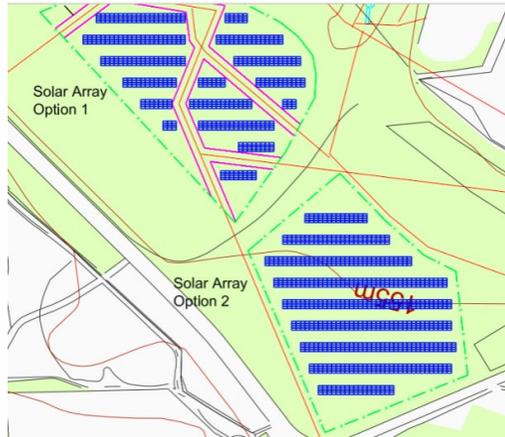


Northern Roots Solar



RCEF Stage: 1 & 2



Key Facts

Land	The land is owned by Oldham Council but has a lease signed over to Northern Roots charity.
Grid	There is a private wire at an Oldham Council depot.
Planning	The site is green belt. The scheme has received planning permission, but needs sign off from the Secretary of State.

The Story

Northern Roots is a pioneering project to create the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park on 160 acres of green space in the heart of Oldham, Greater Manchester. The aim is to develop Northern Roots in a way that creates jobs, skills, and business opportunities for local people while preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and ecological value of the site. The Northern Roots site will be used to mitigate climate change, further Oldham Council's aspiration to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and contribute to targets set out in Greater Manchester's Five-Year Environment Plan. Part of the development plan is to generate renewable energy on-site to potentially generate income for the project and/or contribute to the operation of the site.

Challenges & Risks

Using land for ground mounted solar is controversial with calls for competing land use. However, ground mounted solar is a temporary structure and the electricity it generates should be considered like an energy crop, bringing an income to the charity and offsetting carbon.

Lessons Learned

Planning is time-consuming and challenging. Grid connection is complicated and can be expensive. It took three different sites before we could find something that could work. We now want to look at the potential of roof mounted schemes and work with businesses to increase the amount of solar we will develop. This will help our overall business case when we do a share offer to raise the money.

Key Figures

Project size:	Ground mounted Solar 350 kW
Tech type	Roof PV TBC
Energy Generation	285MWhs
Private finance leveraged	£350,000
CO2 savings	65 Tonnes pa
RCEF grant	£16,168 + £66,618

Further notes

LEP area: Greater Manchester

Link for further info:
[Northern Roots](#)