



TOP 10 TIPS: FOR PV (PV FOR BEGINNERS!)

V1.0.1. DRAFT; 13th July 2026; AIA

1 INTRODUCTION

This 'Top Tips' doc' is intended for individuals or organizations without significant PV experience. It highlights some key areas to consider if you are relatively new to delivering PV projects. The target audience is therefore more likely to be LA staff delivering WH:LG projects – but some RP staff might also find things here that they may not have fully covered off.

2 TIPS

2.1 OUTCOMES:

Be clear about what you want to achieve, and make sure your installer understands this. Examples might include:

- Max PV up to 3.68kWp. *The most PV you can put on a home before the DNO connection changes from G98 to G99.*
- Minimum amount of PV required to reach EPC C. *The cheapest way to hit the EPC C target.*
- Minimum to reach 'safe C' (e.g. 72). *Just building in a little margin for error on current (or future) EPC calculations.*
- Max to stay under B. *Sometimes going beyond EPC C can trigger grant issues.*

2.1.1 More than one elevation?

(Especially) if your outcome is at the higher end of the range – then it may be necessary to install PV on more than one roof elevation to achieve that outcome. If so, you need to be clear that this is your expectation with your contractor. You also need to be clear about any restrictions which you may have (the steeper a North facing roof is, the less electricity panels will generate). So that your installer understands your parameters. It could be that you may want to install PV on some North facing roofs.

2.2 IN-ROOF OR ON-ROOF – AND PIDGEON NETTING

For WH:LG nearly all installs will be 'on-roof'. If you are installing 'on-roof', ensure that pidgeon netting (Solar Panel Bird Mesh) is specified!

RP's might be combining PV with re-roofing and 'in-line' PV could be a preferred option. If so, be clear about your expectation with your installer – and any circumstances when you might deviate away from an in-roof preference. (For example in-roof often reduces the size of PV that can be fitted on a roof – and this may not be desirable. Especially if the smaller size results in not achieving a specified EPC target, for example).



2.3 INVERTER LOCATION & FIRE PROTECTION

There are fire issues with inverters in lofts – so typically your specification should include location externally – or appropriate fire protection (detection and alarms). If you do not have either of these – review your specification, with expert advice, to be confident you are comfortable with it!

There is an FAQ about inverters in lofts on the MNZH Materials pages of the AECL website here: <https://www.andrewsenvironment.co.uk/fa-qs/>, the FAQ can be downloaded from the green button “Smoke detectors for inverters in lofts (& batteries inside)”

2.4 STRUCTURAL

Not all roofs are structurally capable of taking the addition loads of PV panels. (Especially) For on-roof systems there is weight and wind to consider. Check that responsibility for structural issues is clearly identified in your team and delivery.

2.5 DNO CONNECTIONS

PV systems require DNO (District Network Operator) connections. These are usually ‘simple’ G98 connections for dwellings. Installs under 3.68kWp are under G98. (Larger systems require G99. For G98 the system is normally just an ongoing notification. For G99 approval for the install is required prior to install.

BUT NOTE: Multiple G98 connections require a different approval ‘G98 Multiple’ which is done via ‘G98 Form A’. This is also ‘approval first’ rather than ‘notification after’ – and there have been increasing cases of DNO’s being more attentive to the ‘multiple’ scenario and of not allowing connections. If a ‘multiple’ approval has not been given then DNO’s can require restriction or even disconnection of systems! ‘Multiple’ is triggered by more than 1 install within 500meters of each other. This will be typical in WH:SF, but it will not be uncommon in WH:LG either – especially where there is any sort of area-based approach.

2.6 METERS AND SEG

RdSAP (the methodology behind EPC’s) is generous in its treatment of PV. If there is an ‘export capable’ meter (normally a smart meter) present then the EPC calc assumes that every kWh of electricity generated has full value. I.e. it doesn’t matter what is used ‘on-site’ as the assumption is that the same value is achieved for exported PV. If there is not an ‘export capable’ meter then there is no value attributed to the exported PV. In the real world the Resident Client could be getting nothing for exported PV even if they have an ‘export capable’ meter. And even if they get something – the rates can vary very widely. So – have you thought about SEG payments, the meter’s required and what suppliers offer – and is your delivery facilitating this?

2.7 ELECTRICAL (CERTS AND QA)

Ideally some sort of QA checks by somebody qualified should be part of your overall delivery. Evidence of certification could also be a part of your QA for PV installs. There is a simple ‘Top Tips’ doc for PV QA in this document set intended for those without PV or electrical qualifications (see 3).



2.8 MCS / TRUSTMARK

Ensure that your installers are MCS and TrustMark registered prior to starting work. Also try to ensure that they are required under your contract to notify you of any suspensions (including temporary) for MCS, TrustMark, Certification Bodies or Scheme Providers.

2.9 VENTILATION

Under the new version of PAS2035(:2023) there are enhanced ventilation requirements for PV that were not in place under the old version of PAS2035(:2019). Ensure that you have the correct ventilation requirements in your projects – and do the ventilation first – to avoid ventilation refusal after PV has already been installed!

2.10 BATTERIES

Batteries can make a significant difference to Resident Clients – even if this is not necessarily the case in the EPC (because they have no EPC impact if there is an ‘export capable meter’ in place). Make pro-active decisions on the inclusion (or not) of batteries.

And if you include batteries ensure you have considered PAS 63100 (for batteries) in your project.

3 FURTHER DOCS

- Top Tips for PV QA: <https://www.andrewsenv.co.uk/docs-by-measure/>
- Inverters in Lofts FAQ: <https://www.andrewsenv.co.uk/fa-qs/>
- MNZH have a PV guide for social housing – **coming soon!**