

## **Iconic York Minster sets powerful example of sustainability and heritage preservation with a solar powered strategy for future generations.**

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York Minster, one of the UK's most iconic landmarks, is taking a bold step to address the challenges of climate change by reducing its carbon footprint. This commitment to sustainability aligns its centuries-old legacy with the pressing need to address modern environmental challenges, safeguarding its heritage for the future.

- Working with Solarwatt, a pioneer in solar panel technology, and Leeds-based renewable energy specialists Associated Clean Technologies (ACT), the cathedral has installed 184 glass-glass photovoltaic solar panels on its South Quire roof.

Extreme weather caused by climate change, particularly intense rainfall, has become the "biggest threat" to York Minster, according to officials. Prolonged exposure to heavy rainfall has accelerated the decay of its stone and caused movement in the Grade I listed structure, raising concerns about its preservation.

### **A Sustainable Solution to Preserve History**

- The solar panels, part of a wider sustainability initiative, will generate nearly 70,000 kWh of renewable energy annually — enough to power 41 average UK households. This will account for approximately one-third of York Minster's energy consumption, reducing its annual carbon emissions by 13 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Alex McCallion, York Minster's Director of Works and Precinct, said, "If we can do it, everybody else can do it because our climate is changing. We're seeing that firsthand while looking after this very precious building."

He added that the cathedral's adoption of solar energy "demonstrates how historic buildings can embrace renewable energy solutions without compromising their heritage."

### **Expert Partners Leading the Charge**

Associated Clean Technologies go beyond being just a solar installation company, providing bespoke solutions that ensure outstanding consultation, design, and project delivery.

High-efficiency, glass-glass SOLARWATT Panel vision solar modules which have a very low CO<sub>2</sub> footprint were selected for their durability, performance, and adhere to necessary Class A safety standards, making them ideally suited to the unique challenges of a centuries-old cathedral roof.

The robust construction of the Solarwatt panels ensures they are designed and rigorously tested to withstand extreme weather, mechanical stress, and harmful pollutants, representing the latest advancements in a new generation of solar energy technology.

ACT's team of experienced installers worked meticulously to ensure the project implementation ran smoothly and that the system design not only provides maximum efficiency but that also integrates seamlessly with the architecture. The panels' solar cells are encapsulated between a double layer of toughened glass and lamination bonded to ensure they are reliable and sustainable in every way, so they produce high yields for decades.

Nicola Newby, Operations Director at Associated Clean Technologies Ltd said:

“We are honoured to have been selected to carry out this significant installation at York Minster. Our team has worked diligently to ensure that the project not only meets but exceeds the highest standards of safety and efficiency.”

Neal Goddard, Managing Director Solarwatt UK & Ireland commenting on the project added:

“Solarwatt is proud to be part of this transformative installation alongside our expert partners at ACT who have done an incredible job.” “York Minster's solar installation sets a powerful example of heritage preservation through sustainable innovation ”

### Looking Ahead

The solar installation is part of York Minster's broader plan to transition to renewable energy, with additional projects in the pipeline. It marks an important step as a one of the largest cathedral estates in the world demonstrating how historic sites can lead the way in tackling climate change. York Minster's commitment to sustainability aligns its centuries-old legacy with the pressing need to address modern environmental challenges, ensuring its preservation for generations to come.

### About Solarwatt

Solarwatt is a leading provider of high-quality photovoltaic systems and energy solutions in Europe, with a commitment to creating a sustainable energy future through technological innovation and strategic partnerships. With over three decades of experience, Solarwatt continues to drive the transition to renewable energy by developing integrated solutions that enhance energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and promote energy independence. Solarwatt operates subsidiaries in 10 European countries and has a network of over 8,500 solar professional experts across the continent.

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