

Switched onto your needs

Experienced lawyers in solar energy

Solar energy in Ireland

Solar energy is positioned to become one of the leading renewable technologies in contributing towards Ireland's 2030 EU carbon emissions targets. With an ever increasing focus on the climate change agenda at public, political and corporate levels, there are a number of reasons why solar energy is well placed to play a large role in the clean energy transition. Some of these reasons include, a significant cost decrease in purchasing and installing solar panels in recent years, subsidy support for renewables (63 solar projects were successful in RESS-1) giving projects long term price certainty, short construction timelines and strong industry expertise and resources.

We have unrivalled experience in the solar energy industry in Ireland and Northern Ireland. On the island of Ireland, we have advised on some of the most significant solar energy projects in Ireland to date. Our clients include domestic developers, multi-national utilities, international power companies, infrastructure, private equity funds and banks.

How can we help?

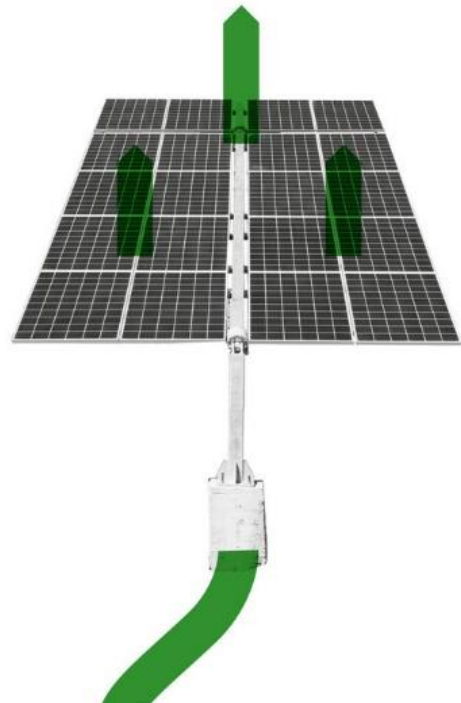
Eversheds Sutherland has the in-depth industry knowledge, resourcing and expansive reach necessary to compete in today's global energy market.

Our energy team combines the strength of our local professionals who are embedded in the Irish renewable energy sector with our global teams who have worked extensively in the solar sector. Together we can bring our clients the best international experience and market insights.

Our full service offering means that we can provide comprehensive whole project lifecycle experience in solar projects with recognised professionals across all skill bases from real estate, planning and environmental, through to supply chain, grid, PPA structures and debt and equity finance. We work with our clients to help them avoid disputes; but if disputes do arise, we have the skills and strategic knowledge to resolve them successfully.

Our experience includes advising:

- **Allied Irish Banks, plc** on its proposed financing of 8 solar farm developments in Co. Cork by **Amarenco Solar**
- **Macquarie Capital** in relation to its equity investment in **Amarenco Solar Ireland** and the provision of debt to its individual project companies
- **Greencoat** on the acquisition of 156MW of operational solar assets across the UK and Northern Ireland
- The **ESB** and **Kingspan** joint venture in relation to the roll out of its commercial roof top business
- **Wexford Solar** in relation to the first fully consented ground mounted solar park in Ireland
- **Wexford Solar** in relation to its joint venture with Low Carbon
- **Solas Eireann** in relation to the acquisition of land rights in Ireland for ground mounted solar parks
- **Soleire** in the acquisition of land rights for the development of its ground mounted portfolio in Ireland
- **Temporis Capital** in relation to the acquisition of land rights in Ireland for ground mounted solar parks



Full service in solar energy

Planning – Our planning team has extensive solar energy experience and advises on all aspects of the planning process. Our team has advised on environmental impact assessment reviews, project and appeal process management and complex site issues such as noise, ecology and aviation. Our team has also brought successful judicial review proceedings in the planning and regulatory environment.

Construction – Our construction team has unparalleled experience in advising our clients in drafting and negotiating the key project contracts in a solar transaction including the EPC / balance of plant, supplier, and operation and maintenance contracts. Our team are also highly attuned to the commercial issues contained in these project contracts.

Regulatory – Our regulatory team frequently advises on grid and other regulatory issues affecting the solar market. Our team are also experts in advising our solar clients on merchant and subsidy-backed PPAs and intermediary contracts. Our team also have extensive knowledge of the REFIT and RES schemes.

Corporate – Our corporate team has significant experience in advising on all aspects of joint ventures, co-development agreements, deferred consideration structures and tax-based schemes including BES and EII. Our integrated team has a wealth of experience and provides developers a full service whatever the size of the project.

Dispute resolution – Our dispute resolution team has extensive experience in handling complex disputes within the renewable energy sector. Our team has advised on a wide range of issues including shareholder and land access disputes. Through our intimate knowledge of the industry's contract forms (FIDIC, MF1 and bespoke contracts) and our practical approach, we offer significant value to clients on these types of disputes. Our specialists also have strong expertise in arbitration, litigation and alternative dispute resolution procedures.

Policy – Our energy team is actively involved in policy and sits on various industry groups focused on solar energy, including the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group and the British Irish Chamber of Commerce. Mark Varian is a founder and former Secretary of the Irish Solar Energy Association.

What our clients say

A respondent notes that the lawyers' strength lies in their *"client focus and ability to work collectively with the client's wider team to find solutions."*

Chambers Europe

An interviewee finds the team members to be *"very knowledgeable in the area of renewable energy."*

Chambers Europe

Clients report that Mark Varian is *"very knowledgeable about the renewable energy market in Ireland, and his advice is practical and business-oriented."*

Chambers Europe

Sources describe Mark Varian as an *"experienced, commercial and committed"* partner who has *"an excellent knowledge of the energy industry."*

Chambers Europe

"They are very knowledgeable in the renewable energy sector. They are also very commercial in terms of negotiations with the counterparty's lawyers, and their responses are very quick."

Chambers Europe

"They are pragmatic in their approach."

Chambers Europe

Legal updates

We offer briefings and alerts on the latest issues facing the energy sector. If you would like to receive these alerts, please sign up to our energy mailing list [here](#).

What happens next?

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