

List of people who stole photovoltaic panels



Overview

Solar farms contain high-value assets like copper cabling and photovoltaic panels, which can be resold or scrapped for quick profit. Their remote locations and historically minimal security make them vulnerable, especially to well-organised criminal gangs looking for easy access. The New York Times reports that in one case, someone tried to sell stolen solar panels worth almost \$1,500 each on eBay for just \$100 each. Detectives placed bids and won the panels, and arrested the man when he tried to complete the transaction. This certainly seemed to be the case, as between January and August 2024, there were at least 70 reported offences. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity has been growing at an average annual rate of around 33% over the past decade. This rapid expansion has brought about a corresponding rise in the number of solar panel installations, both residential and commercial. In June this year, a farmer who had £70 000 worth of high-tech equipment stolen believes a gang spied on his premises with a drone. There are established illicit global markets for farming equipment. Solar panel fraud has become a growing concern in the United States, leaving many homeowners stuck with hidden fees, inflated energy bills, and contracts they never fully understood.

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Prosecutors are actively investigating solar industry fraud -- here's

Solar energy is booming and helping lower planet-heating pollution. Unfortunately, predatory companies can take advantage of the popularity.

'Solar theft' - why is it on the rise and how can farms protect

Unfortunately, what should be a virtuous initiative is giving rise to a new crime wave, with police data showing a staggering 48% rise in solar panel and cabling theft from 2021 to 2022.



What is Solar Panel Fraud and What Can You Do ...

Learn how to spot solar panel fraud, avoid predatory contracts, and take action if you've been scammed, with guidance from Prevost Law Firm.

Solar Panel Theft and Vandalism , Protecting Your Renewable ...

To effectively combat solar panel theft and vandalism, it's crucial to understand the nature of the threat and the motivations behind these criminal activities.



How Common is Solar Panel Theft? Alexandra Security Investigates

Solar panel theft is on the rise - discover why it's happening, the real cost to operators, and how security measures can help protect valuable infrastructure.

Do Solar Panels Get Stolen? - Solara Solar

As solar panels become more common, many homeowners and business owners wonder: Do solar panels get stolen? While solar theft isn't widespread, it does happen, particularly in ...



Solar Panel Theft and Crime Increases

Someone stole solar panels from a Newport Beach toll road and attempted

to sell them on eBay for \$100 each. The Newport Beach Police Sergeant stated that those solar panels were ...



Surge in solar panel thefts prompts security warning

Homeowners typically install between 10 and 15 panels, with a value of around £7,000. With more than 1.4 million solar panels already in domestic properties - a figure that is expected to ...



Solar Farm Crime: News, Insights & Data

Concerned about the rising threat of solar farm crime covering panel theft, intrusion, and vandalism? Learn more now.

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