

Planning Application: 220957 FUL 26-90 Reading bus station

Reading Community Energy Society application for the installation of a solar PV system at Reading Buses, Great Knollys Street, Reading.

Planning statement - Purpose of the application for solar panels

The proposed installation of solar panels and associated equipment at Reading Bus Depot will generate renewable electricity which will be supplied directly to the depot.

The depot has significant electricity use. Installation and operation of the solar generation at the depot will increase the amount of renewable energy used on-site, reduce the amount of electricity drawn from the local electricity network, and therefore, lower the carbon emissions associated with energy use at the depot.

The electricity will primarily be used in the office and workshop buildings at the depot, improving the sustainability of the building. Any excess electricity generated by the solar but not used on-site will be exported to the local electricity network.

The solar panels will be visible from some public areas, most noticeably to rail passengers. The fact that Reading Buses partnering with Reading Community Energy Society is supporting such a significant renewable energy installation will help communicate positive messages about renewable energy and the suitability of solar panels in the urban environment.

It is intended that the panels will be owned and operated by Reading Community Energy Society. This system will be added to the 22 systems already operated by RCES and further support the viability of this community owned renewable energy project. The renewable generation at the site from the solar installation and the contribution the system will make to RCES means that the proposal is making a two-fold contribution to progressing Reading towards its net zero target.