

Picture this, it's a bright day, Martin Clunes is smiling out at you and he's going to discover the truth behind solar farms, get rid of those 'myths and misconceptions.' He's going to show us that, standing with a farmer, in a beekeeper suit and in a small field with 2m tall solar panels, solar has benefits for the farmer, benefits for biodiversity and will not be invasive, imposed on communities and will provide the electricity that the country needs...

Well, this is what Island Green would like to present, because they have commissioned the video. Now picture this, not just a few acres across different farms in different areas, benefiting a local farmer who is still farming alongside but concentrated over 10's of thousands of acres in one district, with 4 m high panels, here there will no longer be agricultural farming alongside, there won't be the land left. Where will the biofuels be grown? Where will crops be grown for us to eat or animal feed? The benefits are limited to a few, who may not even actually be farmers on the ground.

Now consider this...the change to the National policy Statements on renewable energy November of this year, which puts solar as a critical national priority well, who were the lobbyists behind this? Well, strangely they are sat here now... they represent the companies behind these solar projects, they have put millions into persuading us and government that ground solar industrialization is the way to give us energy. That's because they make money, it's relatively easy to construct solar, of course not here in the UK, they won't create any long-term jobs for the region, they will change the landscape for 40-60 years, a lifetime or is that more than a lifetime? They will cause disruption in the building, won't provide the actual solar the companies imagine, and what actual guarantees are there at the end of its lifetime? But that's ok because these companies as we heard yesterday will have discussions between their topic leads, they will use their professional judgments... is that not like marking your own homework as a child? Is that not the same as lobbying to ensure that government policy reflects your priority?

Martin Clunes asks 'why isn't everyone doing it' (solar) well because, it is not the answer the country needs, here is not the right place to put a concentrated area of large ground mounted solar panels, the place for solar is on roofs, in small areas where the local's benefit, as part of a family of renewables. Did anyone tell Martin Clunes he had half a story? Like we are presented with part truths, and complicated arguments, that don't add up.

Whilst these companies lobby and belittle us on social media, they are not actually doing this for green reasons, they aren't providing sustainable power for the future, they are overplanting, they are tying up grid connections, they are racing to be the company that is allowed to put forward a proposal that is granted, they are here to take the contracts for difference.

We are an island and land is precious, we need to consider carefully it's use before we act, land needs to do so much more than solar to rectify our damage that humans have done to the land and the climate.

And when these companies are long gone, for they will sell on and evolve, move to the next big project, and their legacy is debated in years to come, when solar should have been placed on roof tops as a policy before we were in crisis, when there is no one left accountable for their actions... what will our legacy be? How will we justify this to our grandchildren and great grandchildren... I personally can say I tried to protect agriculture, a way of life, my community, I tried to protect wildlife and habitats. I put solar panels on my roof... but will that have been enough? Well I am trying... will others?

References:

[On the Road to Uncover the Benefits of UK Solar Power - YouTube](#)