

# Photovoltaic panel theft gang

Are solar panel thefts a crime?

Organised criminal gangs tend to rely on familiar methods for committing solar panel thefts, and their movements can often be predicted. By paying attention to advisories issued by law enforcement and local media reports, site operators can identify times and locations that are at high risk for theft.

How to prevent solar panel theft in remote locations?

To combat the threat of solar panel thefts, it is essential for solar farms in remote locations to implement robust crime detection. This includes the installation of surveillance cameras, lighting, and physical barriers, as well as having a security team on site or on call to respond to any incidents.

Are solar panels being stolen?

Recent reports from Germany highlight a significant increase in solar panel thefts, with law enforcement attributing the crimes to the current energy crisis and growing demand for solar energy. In the UK, solar farms are also at risk of similar criminal activity.

Is a solar raid linked to organized crime?

The international disposal route linked to the raid - on a solar farm owned by water company Severn Trent, near Kidderminster, in the west of England - indicated organized crime involvement. Police in the UK observed a 93% rise in reports of solar-related crimes from 2021 to 2022.

Should a solar site operator report a crime?

Trade body Solar Energy UK confirms the picture and Taylor and Oakley emphasized the need for site operators to report even trivial incidents to help police build a bigger picture of solar crime. Minor wire cutting could indicate a criminal recce. "Small, low-level criminal damage needs to be reported," said Taylor.

Did UK police find solar panels stolen from Worcestershire site?

Photo: DeterTech From pv magazine Global 04/23 When the UK police visited an address in Staffordshire they suspected of harboring solar panels stolen from a Worcestershire site in 2019, they not only recovered 13 modules but also found paperwork indicating planned shipments to Madrid for resale.

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Six individuals have been arrested by the Guardia Civil for their alleged membership of a criminal



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organization specializing in the theft of solar panels from photovoltaic installations. The investigation began after an ...

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Installing security cameras near solar panel installations provides continuous surveillance and monitoring, enhancing theft deterrence and facilitating the identification of potential intruders. ...

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