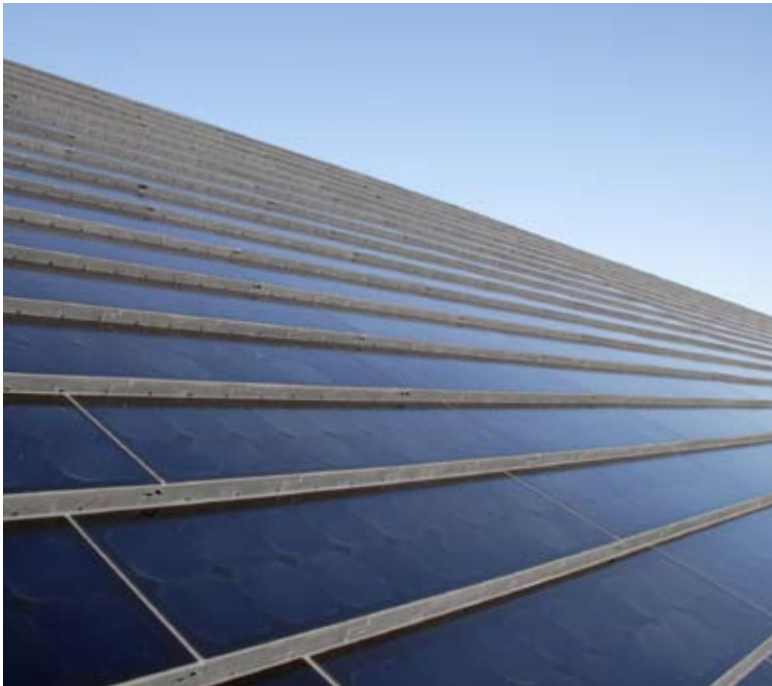




Case study

The Print House



“The solar installation itself is a wonderful and innovative demonstration of the vital role renewable energy plays in all of our low carbon futures”

Mary Doyle, Chair, Bootstrap Company

Largest C21e solar tile installation in the UK provides clean energy for The Bootstrap Company

The C21e solar roof at the Print House in Dalston, East London, is the culmination of a collaboration between Solarcentury and London-based charitable development trust The Bootstrap Company. Saving over 12 tonnes of CO₂ each year, this is one of the largest and most efficient solar installations of its kind in the UK.

The Bootstrap Company is managed by the Environment Trust. It maintains and lets workspaces to local business at affordable and inclusive rates. The Print House is one such property and consists of 50 office suites ranging from 150 sqft to 1500 sqft with a café on the ground floor and a car park. The workspace is currently occupied by 30 small businesses, voluntary and social enterprise organisations.

As a listed building, one of the prime considerations in selecting a renewable power source to reduce running costs was the aesthetics. Solar photovoltaic roof tiles presented the solution, as they are virtually un-discernable from the ground.

Jeremy Leggett, CEO of Solarcentury said: *“The work of the Bootstrap Company is vital in London’s tough business environment. Maintaining workspaces that are cost efficient and sustainable is the answer to creating and maintaining local employment in regenerating urban areas.”*

Talking about the installation, Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks said: *“We want to make solar panels as commonplace as we can on our homes, our schools and our workplaces. They save our money while doing their bit to save our planet. Charitable projects such as this are exactly the kind of scheme that the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was designed to encourage.”*

The solar installation is made up of 184 square metres of award winning photovoltaic roof tiles. These will generate 21,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year whilst saving over 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is the most efficient solar PV technology available, operating at 20% efficiency. The installation will provide most of the electricity that the building's occupants require.

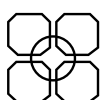
This makes The Print House a highly efficient roof, and one of the most productive PV roofs (per m²) in the UK. At the weekends, and when the electricity use will be lower, this type of installation enables users to export power to the national grid.

Adding to this, Bootstrap Company chair Mary Doyle said: *"This project is the result of a strong and successful partnership between three organisations wanting to develop environmentally and economically-sustainable workspaces for businesses in London's competitive and expensive business environment. The solar installation itself is a wonderful and innovative demonstration of the vital role renewable energy plays in all of our low carbon futures."*

The installation has been part funded by the Energy Saving Trust and the European Regional Development Fund. As part of the project, there will be an information resource centre showing people how the solar installation works and why it is so environmentally-friendly. For more information about the Environment Trust, this project and others: www.envirotrust.org



Date commissioned	2006.02.26
Technology	C21e solar roof tile
Installation Type	Pitched roof
System size (kWp)	24.3
Forecast electricity generation / year (kWh)	21,000
Building integrated	Yes
CO ₂ saving / year (kg)	11,928
Energy produced to date (kWh)	9,493



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