

Latest case of the theft of millions of photovoltaic panels

Did India pay \$250 million in bribes for solar panels?

Solar panels at the Adani Green Renewable Energy Plant in Khavda, India, in October. The defendants are accused of paying more than \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials to obtain solar energy contracts. Punit Paranjpe/Agence France-Presse -- Getty Images

Are solar panels being stolen in the UK?

That figure - reported by Detective Superintendent James Taylor, head of UK serious organized acquisitive crime unit Opal - included a rise in small-scale theft of solar panels as rising energy bills and the cost-of-living crisis bite. And the UK experience is far from unique.

How much does a solar theft cost?

Strecke says European solar thefts typically cause EUR60,000 (\$63,900) of damage, when repairs and loss of business are factored in. "Solar crime is on the increase," says Rachael Oakley, director of crime intelligence at Telford-based DeterTech, formerly known as SmartWater Group thanks to its product-marking technology.

How much property was stolen from UK solar sites last year?

Speakers at the event, held in Telford, in the west of England, appealed for solar site owners to report all incidents of criminal damage, no matter how small. Taylor said GBP 574,300 (\$691,500) worth of property was reported stolen from UK solar sites last year, but noted that the real figure is likely higher.

How many solar panels can a thief remove?

Viamon's Strecke says organized raiders typically remove 100 panels to 300 solar panels - 10 tons' worth at the top end. In one case, he adds, thieves removed more than 15,000 panels - 5 MW of generation capacity - in one weekend. "It is organized crime, with big logistics in the background," he says.

Does the UK have a solar crime rate?

And the UK experience is far from unique. German solar security business Viamon tells pv magazine that more than 5,000 "major" solar thefts annually occur in Europe, with more than 400 in Germany alone. In southern Italy, says Viamon Managing Director Oliver Strecke, the solar crime rate is 10 times higher than the European average.

25+ million members; ... 2021 Solar energy harnessing and related. issues. ... A case study was presented by. experimenting on two, ten-watt multi-crystalline PV panels. One ...

The likelihood of theft also tends to increase as the value and popularity of solar panels grow, with thieves looking to sell stolen solar panels on the secondary market. Additionally, construction ...

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