

Greenlinx 3 2 battery review

A Solar Fast installer at work – credit Solar Fast

Originally a trading name for Yorkshire energy firm Gas Fast, Solar Fast is now part of the Wickes group and one of the fastest-growing solar installers in Britain. We gave it second position in our roundup of the best solar panel installers in the UK, naming it ‘best for customer service’ and also praising its warranties and range of services.

Solar Fast installs just one brand of solar panel: the highly efficient 440W DMEGC M10-series panel, which it describes as a ‘Tier 1 panel’. In fact Tier 1 is a rating for manufacturers rather than panels. The rating system is developed by BloombergNEF and is a measure of how ‘bankable’ or financially stable the company is (and by implication how likely it is to still be around in years to come to fulfil its warranty) but isn’t actually a measure of quality.

Solar Fast also supplies and fits solar storage batteries and EV chargers.

In this review, our solar experts explore the pros and cons of Solar Fast’s panels and services to help you decide whether this is your ideal partner for your switch to solar.

Solar Fast has only been trading under its name since 2021, but its history goes back two decades. The company has its origins in West Yorkshire energy firm Gas Fast, incorporated in 2006 – back when solar PV (photovoltaic) systems accounted for less than 0.01% of the nation’s electricity consumption.

That figure is now 5% and rising fast, so it’s no surprise that the newly-styled Solar Fast grew at an astonishing rate. In its first year of operation under the Solar Fast name it went from 10 to more than 100 staff and turned over £9 million. In its second year, it was garlanded with awards including Best Business Transformation at the Yorkshire Post Excellence in Business Awards and ranked 181 in the 1,000 fastest growing companies in Europe by the Financial Times.

Solar Fast says it has 16,000 customers across mainland UK and claims to have installed more than 47,000 solar panels, generating more than 10.4 million kWh (kilowatt hours) of solar energy. It says its installations prevented 8,320 tonnes of carbon from being released in a single year (2022-23), suggesting it has significantly reduced its customers’ carbon footprint as well as their energy bills.

Solar Fast, based in Castleford near Leeds, boasts five industry accreditations from bodies including the Energy Performance Validation Scheme (EPVS) and the Home Insulation & Energy Systems Quality Assured Contractors Scheme (HIES), as well as the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), which is essential for UK solar panel installers.

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Solar Fast limits the brand of solar panel on its books. It currently only installs DMEGC's powerful 440W M10-series panel, which boasts efficiency ratings of up to 22.7%, well above average.

The panels come with a 25-year product guarantee and a 30-year performance guarantee, which approaches the top end of what you'd expect from a solar industry warranty.

Solar Fast also includes a two-year workmanship guarantee with all its installations, which include EV chargers and solar storage batteries as well as solar panels, and pledges to monitor PV systems for 30 years after installation to spot and fix any problems. That kind of peace of mind is invaluable when you're spending thousands on your home.

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