

come to end, with incentives diminishing or disappearing altogether. The most famous example was the Feed-in Tariff (FiT), designed to encourage the uptake of a range of small scale renewable and low carbon electricity generation technologies. Put simply, under this scheme, owners could be generously paid for the electricity they generated on eligible systems such as solar panels. Analysis from the Solar Trade Association has suggested that solar deployment on homes has taken a nose dive, dropping by as much as 75 per cent. Moreover, installations on larger rooftops have plummeted some 65 per cent. This steep decline is a direct response in the wake of cuts to the FiT incentives, which were slashed 65 per cent by the Tories, meaning the financial reward for installing solar has all but evaporated.

Homeowners have perhaps been hit hardest by the diminished incentive, but businesses have their own issues to contend with. As of April 2017, changes to business rates mean that organisations that own their solar panels and use the energy it produces will see the tax bill on their panels go up by a significant amount. A small company, who previously paid no such tax, will now be required to pay over £1,000; while a warehouse, with a previous tax of £994, will now face an extra £5,000. Hospital trusts fared even worse. Financial barriers such as these will dissuade businesses from installing solar power and generating their own clean energy, dealing a fatal blow to the UK's low carbon future.

Despite the drop in incentives, Lincoln's Amelio Energy (whose

28 ▸

## Acumen, a leader in industrial site services & waste management solutions

Established in 1994, and remaining privately owned, Acumen supplies innovative techniques to deliver technically robust, cost-effective results whilst upholding the highest levels of health and safety, integrity and customer service.

Its waste management experience is broad ranging – its roots are in the hazardous and difficult, solid and liquid waste market, but over the last decade it has developed its service offering across the entire waste management arena.

Complemented by its industrial site services – which provides on-site solutions to facilitate cleaning, dismantling, decommissioning, project shutdowns, on site waste treatment, contaminated land and associated works – Acumen has become the supplier of choice for those requiring sureties of cost and compliance, whatever the waste type.

Acumen provides 24/7 emergency response, and as accredited spill responders, it offers a highly trained and experienced team to respond to all manner of spillages and environmental incidents.

**For more information, visit [www.acumenwaste.co.uk](http://www.acumenwaste.co.uk).**



## Investing in solar means bottom line profitability

Over the past few months and years, many businesses have been facing new challenges caused by increased input costs and lower selling prices and now, of course, the uncertainty of Brexit. Amelio Energy themselves are also facing these challenges, so the company has focused its efforts on controlling costs and increasing efficiencies. But is it all doom and gloom?

Since January, the level of interest in commercial solar PV systems has increased.

Businesses are becoming more aware of the benefits, in terms of fixing costs and increasing bottom line profitability.

Amelio Energy is currently installing solar PV for businesses that are able to comfortably demonstrate a payback of 5-8 years. It aims to create a 15% return on that investment, over 15 times more than any bank. By investing in this technology you can fix a portion of your electricity costs at around 4-5p per unit for the next 20 years plus.

**For more information, visit [www.amelio.uk.com/solar-pv](http://www.amelio.uk.com/solar-pv).**



**Reduce your electricity costs  
by up to £7,000 a year by  
investing in Solar PV**



Call us  
for a no  
obligation  
discussion about  
your business use  
of electricity and  
how Solar PV  
will help



**Amelio  
Energy**

Energy Consultancy & Delivery

01522 370268

info@amelio.uk.com • www.amelio.uk.com  
Acorn House, Lindum Business Park, Station Road, Lincoln LN6 3QX