

## Putting Energy at the Heart of Your Business Transformation

**Speakers:** Nick Spicer (Your Eco), James Hole (Yattendon Estate)

**Event:** Farm Business Innovation Show 2025

This engaging session explored how integrating renewable energy — particularly **solar power and battery storage** — can future-proof estates and farms while unlocking long-term cost savings and resilience.

**Nick Spicer**, Managing Director of *Your Eco*, shared insights from over a decade of delivering solar and decarbonisation projects across commercial estates, farms, and industrial sites. Joined by **James Hole**, Managing Director of the *Yattendon Estate*, the discussion offered a compelling real-world case study of how renewable energy is transforming estate operations, improving efficiency, and reducing carbon impact.

The pair demonstrated that energy is no longer just a utility cost — it's a **strategic business asset** that underpins diversification, compliance, and long-term sustainability.

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### 10 Key Takeaways for Landowners and Estate Managers

- **Energy drives diversification.** Every modern diversification project — from brewing to food processing — depends on reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.
- **Grid capacity is a constraint.** Access to grid connections is becoming limited; securing capacity early is essential for future energy or electrification projects.
- **Solar delivers strong returns.** Well-designed installations can achieve **10%+ ROI** and reduce grid dependence while generating guaranteed on-site savings.
- **Rooftop and ground-mount flexibility.** From farm shops to breweries, systems can be tailored to match demand profiles and roof or land suitability.
- **Battery storage adds resilience.** Capturing surplus generation allows greater on-site use, stabilising costs and improving system efficiency.
- **Data-led design matters.** Projects should be based on half-hourly consumption data and meteorological forecasting to optimise size and performance.
- **Maintenance and monitoring are key.** Modern panel-level monitoring (e.g. SolarEdge) ensures panels perform optimally and maintenance is targeted, not routine.
- **Technology has advanced.** Solar panels now deliver **double the efficiency** of those a decade ago, with linear performance warranties up to 30 years.
- **Energy supports EPC improvement.** Solar installations can help estates meet incoming energy efficiency standards across residential portfolios.
- **Partnership and transparency pay off.** The Yattendon Estate highlighted the value of open modelling, realistic assumptions, and trustworthy contractors.