

Sustainability Appraisal

Proposed Roof Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels Ashurst C of E Primary School, School Lane, Ashurst, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3AY

June 2026

The Project

Ashurst C of E Primary School, West Sussex, is part of the Diocese of Chichester, which, aspires to achieve net zero by 2030. The school wish to install a rooftop solar photovoltaic system to reduce its dependency on grid purchased power to improve resilience and support its net zero aspirations.

An assessment of the suitability of available power generation options is presented below.

Power Generation Options	Pros	Cons	Suitability
Rooftop solar PV	Sustainable form of power generation. Power is generated during the daytime when a school's demand is higher. Easy to install and maintain; maintenance is low cost. Panels are unobtrusive and do not take up land space used for recreational and educational purposes. Installation will reduce electricity bills and carbon emissions for the school; savings on bills can be diverted to education. Minimal pollution over the lifespan of the PV panels.	Intermittent power generation with no generation during the hours of darkness. Less power is generated in the winter when electricity demand is greater.	Suitable. The best option for the school; lower cost and minimal disruption for the installation.
Ground-mounted solar PV	Sustainable form of power generation. Power is generated during the daytime when a school's demand is higher. Easy to maintain maintenance is low cost.	Only generates power in daylight hours. Less power is generated in the winter when electricity demand is greater. Requires lots of space for panels and change of land use. More cabling is needed	Unsuitable due to lack of space within the school grounds.

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Wind turbine	Sustainable form of power generation. Power is generated year-round, and at night. Installation will reduce electricity bills and carbon emissions for the school.	Visual impact is higher than for solar PV. Potential concerns associated with noise and visual impact.	Unsuitable given the Grade II Listing on School Master's House.
Combined heat & power (CHP)	Provides both heating and power. Very efficient. Reliable, controllable generation. Reduces grid electricity costs.	Produces more carbon emissions than other power generation options, so is therefore a transitional solution. Not aligned with long-term net zero targets. The school does not require the heat due to having air source heat pumps installed. Space needed for plant.	Unsuitable. This option is more suited to a school with high heat demand and more space.
Hydropower	Reliable and consistent form of power generation. Very low emissions.	High capital cost and planning complexity.	Unsuitable. No water resource located on site.