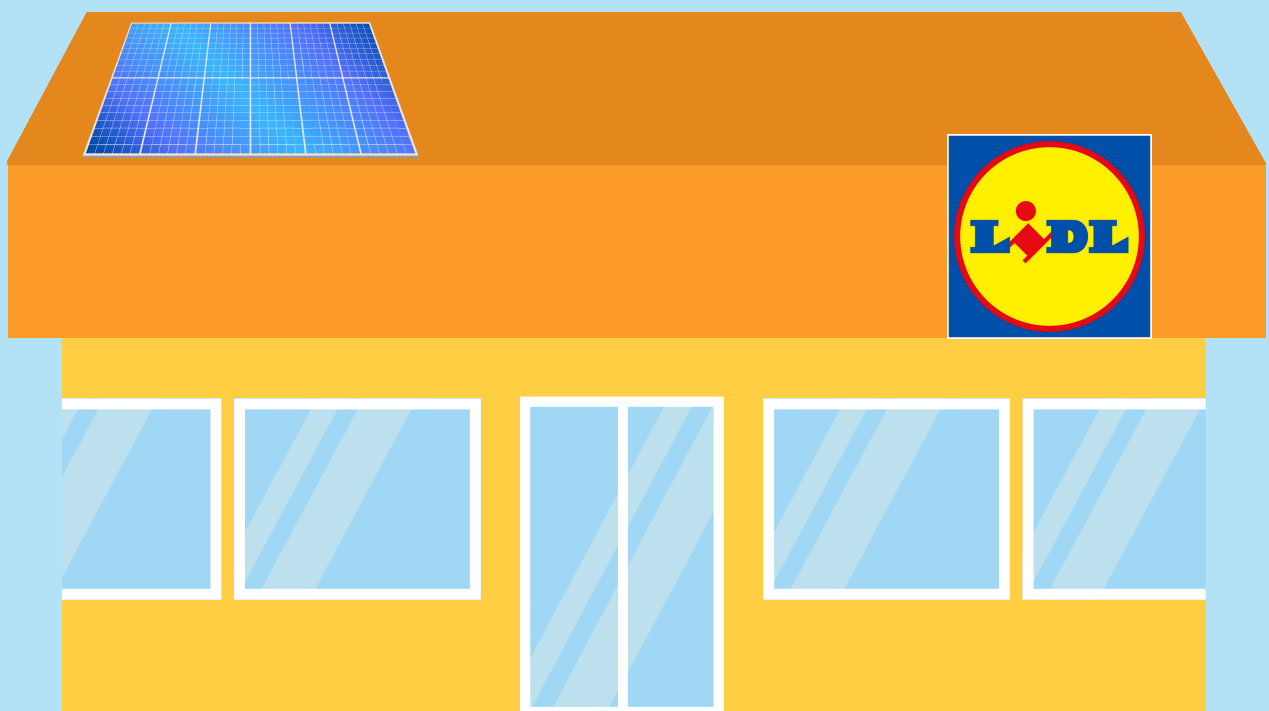




Case Study

Lidl



Summary

- **Location:** UK - Wide
- **Capacity:** 9.8 Megawatts
- **Type:** New build supermarkets
- **Developer:** Lidl
- **Owner:** Lidl
- **Panel type:** JA panels
- **Completion date:** Ongoing

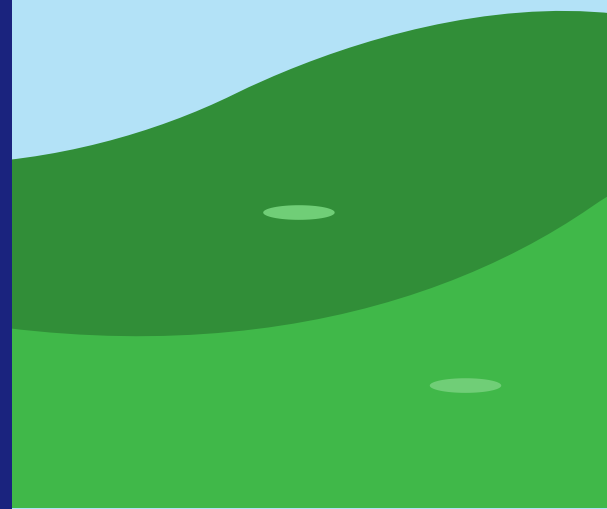


Since the founding of the business in 2016, we have grown with a commitment to provide solutions that contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, improving air quality, and minimising energy costs.



Segen

A leading global wholesale distributor of solar PV, energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging and other associated components. Founded in 2004 in the UK, we have grown rapidly since.



Overview

In 2021, discount supermarket giant, Lidl announced plans to build a host of new sites in the aim of reaching a total of 1100 stores by the end of 2025. The project would see the opening of hundreds of brand-new stores as part of their ongoing 'bricks and mortar' strategy of expansion, creating 4000 new jobs for communities across the country.

A key focus for Lidl's new stores would be energy efficiency and a lower reliance on grid energy, instead drawing from renewable energy options. As such, all new stores would feature solar PV systems and electric vehicle charging points as standard.



Renewable distributor, Segen and solar PV specialist, Square 4 Solar have worked collaboratively to supply and install on over 60 new-built Lidl supermarkets across England, Scotland, and Wales. In total, teams have installed over 20,000 solar panels.

Square 4 Solar and Segen have worked hard to ensure close communication during the entirety of the project to help Lidl meet their strict deadlines. Weekly meetings were held between dedicated Account Managers for complete visibility of one another's long, medium-, and short-term plans; as well as availability.

Project Summary

As well as general project drivers, including value for money and stock availability, Lidl also had several specific project requirements that would help define the working relationship between Square 4 Solar and Segen.

Due to the massive scope of the expansion project and the pace at which stores needed to be constructed to reach Lidl's 2025 target, strict construction programmes needed to be adhered to by everyone involved. Close collaboration between Segen and Square 4 Solar was essential to ensure supply, installation, and commissioning were regimented and could meet these tight deadlines.

Technical support and troubleshooting were also extremely important to Lidl. Both Square 4 Solar and Segen were able to provide expert support to the supermarket giant, with Square 4 Solar taking on responsibility for all design work, helping provide complete peace of mind from a solar PV point of view.

Outcomes

The majority of work on this project happened through the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the entire construction industry was facing supply chain instability and issues with stock availability from China making deadlines across the industry extremely difficult to meet.



It was essential for Segen to prioritise equipment for Lidl projects to allow the teams to meet the strict deadlines in place and Square 4 Solar to accurately timetable installation and commissioning works alongside delivery and construction schedules.

Another challenge for the solar PV teams was keeping up with installation dates moving at last minute due to various onsite issues. A collaborative, pragmatic approach was taken by Segen and Square 4 Solar in an effort to stay reactive to regular changes. Segen continued to work closely with courier services to ensure they were able to accommodate last minute delivery date changes, while Square 4 Solar's engineers kept in regular communication so work could begin as soon as sites were ready.

So far, Segen and Square 4 Solar have worked together on over 60 Lidl stores, with more in the pipeline through to the end of 2025. Outside of a handful of retrofit and non-standard projects – namely projects where Lidl have refurbished purchased buildings – the majority of stores have been newly constructed buildings with specific designs using JA solar panels. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the two companies have been able to work collaboratively to ensure that deadlines up to this point have been met, and installations completed efficiently.

Work is ongoing, with more stores due to be constructed in 2023, 2024, and 2025. As Lidl's expansion scheme continues, Square 4 Solar and Segen will continue to work together on more projects, ensuring that their successful partnership continues into the future.

Local Benefit

Lidl's expansion project brings their quality products and value to more communities across the UK. Not only this, but stores are more energy efficient thanks to the involvement of Square 4 Solar and Segen, reducing carbon footprint while still providing essential services to the local area.

Community Benefit

Lidl's new stores have created hundreds of new jobs for communities across the country and are due to create hundreds more by the end of 2025. Store colleagues receive the highest pay in the industry*, making stores a good economic investment in local communities.



Learn more about what's happening at Square 4 Solar at www.sq4s.co.uk and Segen at www.segen.co.uk



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