



PLUG-IN SOLAR CONFERENCE 2026

Conference Report

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Plug-In Solar, also known as “balcony solar,” has reached widespread adoption in Europe, with over 1 million units installed in Germany alone. The technology is attracting growing interest in an increasing number of countries around the world, with pro-Plug-In Solar regulation underway in several U.S. states, as well as in the UK and Ireland. Pilot projects and research initiatives have also been established in Japan, Vietnam, Korea, and elsewhere. As a result, more and more households around the globe are gaining the ability to generate their own sustainable electricity, reduce private energy costs, and contribute to the energy transition—especially renters and apartment owners without access to a suitable roof for a larger PV system.

This thriving market has given rise to a new and innovative industry, as well as increased demand for the adaptation of energy regulation and civil codes in order to reduce red tape and provide broader access to affordable, renewable, and democratized energy.

On **June 24, 2026**, the second annual **Plug-In Solar Conference** brought together key international players from policy, academia, and the rapidly growing Plug-In Solar industry in Munich, Germany. It was held as a side event to *The smarter E* trade fair—Europe’s largest energy exhibition, with over 100,000 visitors. This year, the conference focused on the political developments and technological innovations currently paving the way for a thriving international market and the widespread adoption of Plug-In Solar by households around the world.

IMPRESSIONS



KEYNOTES

We were very fortunate to secure a panel of high-level experts in their respective fields as speakers for this year's Plug-In Solar Conference. These experts provided the audience with valuable insights into the strengths and shortcomings of current regulation, technological advances in the field, as well as new concepts and solutions to the challenges associated with the wider adoption of this technology.

KEYNOTES

The keynotes were delivered by representatives of two of the world's leading solar associations.



Lennart van Walsum, Director EMEA & Americas at the Global Solar Council been active in the solar industry since 2009. His insights into the rapidly evolving PV market covered investment strategies, technological and policy developments, international competition and supply chains. He made it clear that Plug-In Solar is not just the latest trend, but is on the verge of becoming a global pillar of the solar industry.

As a **market analyst for SolarPower Europe, Leah Le Pénuizic** is the project manager and co-author of SolarPower Europe's 2025 Briefing Paper on Plug-In Solar. This report not only provided the first comparative overview of the EU regulatory landscape for the technology, but also brought new legitimacy to the market, helping to spark legislative initiatives in an increasing number of EU Member States.



Both keynote speakers made it clear that the story of Plug-In Solar is only just beginning. The market is only now beginning to accelerate.

FIRST MOVER



As **Chairman of the German Plug-In Solar Association (Bundesverband Steckersolar e.V., BVSS)**, **Christian Ofenheusle** has been involved in almost every major regulatory breakthrough concerning Plug-In Solar in recent years. He provided an overview of the key developments in legislation and standardization presented a newly emerging framework for potentially millions of grid-supporting Plug-In Storage Systems in Germany.

NEW MARKETS

Anker SOLIX, one of the leading brands for Plug-In Batteries, is also playing a leading role in the international expansion of Plug-In Solar. As **Senior PR, Public Affairs & Policy Manager Europe, Michelle Kreisig** presented MASplug, a joint project of Anker SOLIX and the BVSS, which promotes grassroots Plug-In Solar initiatives and shares the lessons learned from the German experience with more than a dozen markets.



PIPV USA – A SUCCESS STORY



Joining via video call, **Kevin Chou, Executive Director and co-founder of the US-based nonprofit Bright Saver**, brought encouraging news from across the Atlantic. Through his organization, he has already helped motivate almost half of all U.S. state legislatures to introduce Plug-In Solar legislation, some of which has already been enacted. In many cases, the votes were unanimous, demonstrating that Plug-In Solar is a non-partisan issue.

IN FAVOUR OF A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

After a short but refreshing lunch break, the conference entered the panel phase, beginning with a high-profile hybrid panel on EU regulation.

Joining virtually were

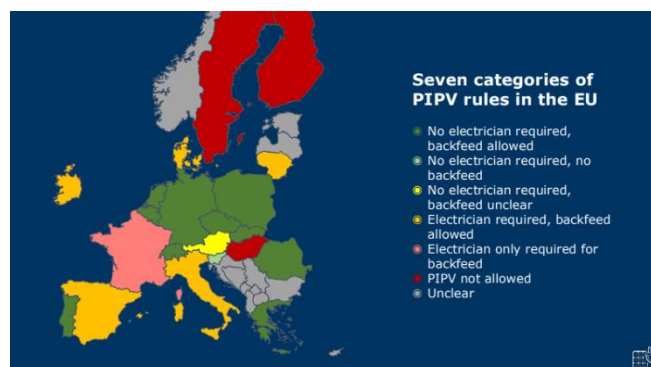
- **Mariana Mesquita, legal and policy officer at the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission,**
- **Michael Bloss, member of the European Parliament,**
- **Marine Cornelis, energy policy advisor and founder of Next Energy Consumer as well as**
- **Arnaud Etienne, Independent Consultant in Energy Transition and creator of Pluginfo.be and ELECTRIFY-events**

and joining in person was

- **Kęstutis Kupšys, Vice President of the Lithuanian Consumer Alliance and Alternate Member of the European Economic and Social Committee.**



As made clear by the participants, the current regulatory landscape in Europe is very heterogeneous and thus not suitable for the robust development of a EU-wide market. With this in mind, a [call for harmonization of EU rules](#) was issued towards the European Commission.



In order to give the policymakers all the information necessary to make an informed decision on a useful market design, a White Paper, being one of the outcomes of the above-mentioned MASplug project, was distributed.

The White Paper can be downloaded from the BVSS website by scanning (or clicking) this QR code:



PEOPLE WANT MORE POWER

What has become clear in the development of the existing markets for Plug-In Solar is that customers are increasingly opting for more powerful systems. Therefore, it was fitting that the second panel of the day showcased innovative technical solutions to safely go beyond the common 800 or 1,200 VA threshold for Plug-In Solar feed-in power. Presenting their solutions were Marcus Vietzke, CEO of Indielux from Berlin, Antonia "Toni" Ginsberg-Klemmt, CEO of Gismo Power from Florida, and Stephan Scherer, Managing Director of Craftstrom, an innovator from Texas with Austrian roots.

While Indielux solves the issue of potential circuit overload by using circuit monitoring and a sophisticated algorithm-based load management, Gismo Power's solution is much more straightforward: Use a dedicated circuit and you can feed in "Starkstrom Steckersolar" (Strong Current Plug-In Solar with up to 6 kVA of feed-in power). Craftstrom on the other hand has perfected the path of least resistance: A zero feed-in system for full freedom behind-the-meter.

All three solutions make clear: The current power limits are not set in stone!



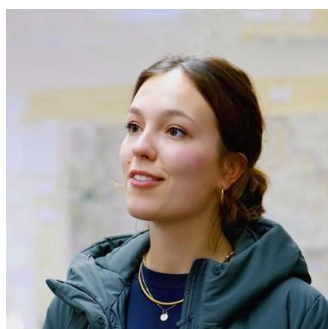
HACK ME IF YOU CAN

After a short coffee break, the final two presentations broadened the view towards the larger impact of plug-in solar. First, **Marlon Starkloff, Founder and CEO of the German cybersecurity company Jakkaru**, informed the stunned audience about the serious vulnerabilities of a number of microinverters.



His studies show that some can be exploited with relatively little effort and used to remotely disconnect or even overload the connected appliance. With the increasing dissemination of the technology, manufacturers must put a strong emphasis on cybersecurity. Only then, the market will be able to reach its full potential.

MORE THAN JUST SAVINGS



Last, but not least, **social scientist Elisabeth Knepper, currently working for the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)** presented her master's thesis on the social impact of Plug-In Solar. In her study, Knepper most importantly finds that using Plug-In Solar actually changes energy consumption behaviour. More than half of users reported that owning a plug-in PV system made them more aware of their electricity consumption and led them to actively reduce their overall energy use. The system acts as a continuous feedback mechanism rather than just a source of electricity.

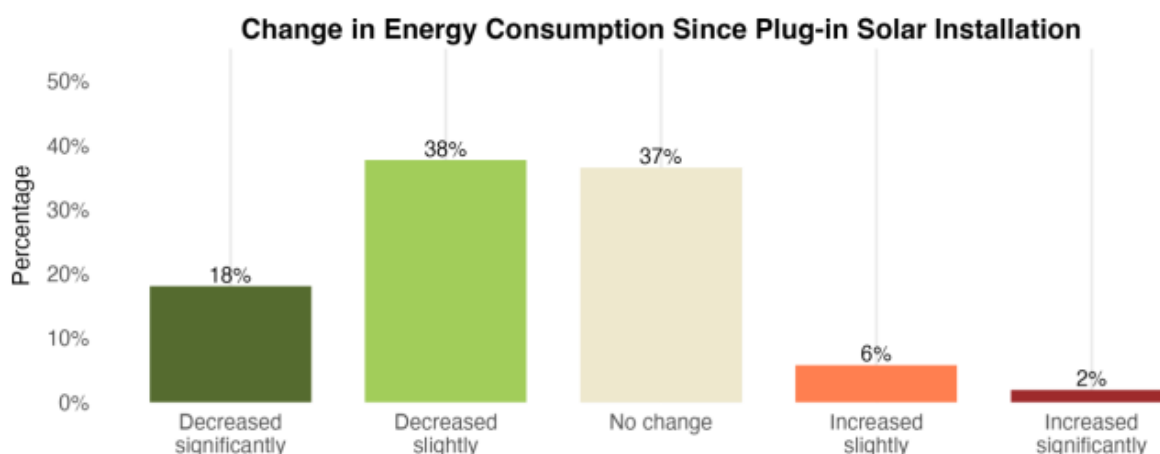


Figure 11. Survey responses on self-reported change in total energy consumption (n = 261)

Additionally, users adapt their electricity demand to solar generation. Many participants deliberately shifted energy-intensive activities (e.g. laundry, dishwashing, charging devices) to sunny periods in order to maximise self-consumption. This behavioral load shifting increases the effective utilisation of locally generated solar power. These and more educational and psychological effects are suited to trigger wider sustainability effects, suggesting that plug-in PV can serve as a gateway technology that encourages broader pro-environmental behavior.

[The full study is available for download on the BVSS website.](#)

OUR SPONSORS

ANKER

SOLIX

Anker SOLIX, a leading brand in Plug-In Solar and Storage and backed by Anker Innovations, a trusted name in consumer electronics - has set a new bar with the SOLIX Solarbank 4 - a smart, modular storage system designed for plug-and-play solar setups. Designed for next-generation plug-in solar, the Solarbank 4 offers a 5 kWh base capacity, expandable up to 30 kWh, and supports up to twelve solar panels with 5,000 W of PV input. Featuring Anker's new PluginPower™ 2.0 technology, it can operate as a conventional 800 W plug-and-play system or, after electrical installation and registration, deliver up to 2,500 W directly into the home. Powered by AI Energy Management, it continuously optimizes charging and discharging based on weather forecasts, household consumption, and dynamic electricity prices. The Solarbank 4 once again highlights Anker SOLIX's commitment to driving innovation and shaping the future of Plug-In Solar.





SPONSORS



SolarPower Europe is the leading association for the European solar sector, representing more than 320 organizations across the entire value chain. Working with policymakers, industry leaders, and partners worldwide, the association drives the transition toward a clean, electrified energy system. Through market intelligence, advocacy, and international cooperation, SolarPower Europe is helping shape the policies and markets that will power Europe's solar future.



SunEnergyXT is an innovative developer of plug-in battery systems that make clean energy accessible to everyone—especially apartment dwellers and households without rooftop solar. Combining compact design, intelligent energy management, and true plug-and-play simplicity, SunenergyXT's solutions help maximize self-consumption, reduce electricity costs, and bring the benefits of home energy storage to millions of consumers.



A WORD FROM THE ORGANISERS



Dear reader,

On behalf of the Bundesverband Steckersolar e.V. (BVSS), I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the second Plug-In Solar Conference such a remarkable success.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our outstanding speakers and panelists, who shared their expertise, experience, and vision with openness and enthusiasm. Their willingness to engage in constructive dialogue across disciplines and national borders made this conference far more than a series of presentations—it became a genuine forum for collaboration and exchange.

My thanks also go to our sponsors and partners, whose support made this event possible, as well as to the many participants who travelled from across Europe and far beyond to join us in Munich. The lively discussions, insightful questions, and countless conversations during the networking sessions clearly demonstrated that Plug-In Solar has evolved into an international movement driven by people who are committed to making the energy transition more accessible, resilient, and democratic.

This year's conference confirmed our belief that Plug-In Solar is entering a new phase. Regulatory progress, technological innovation, and growing public acceptance are creating unprecedented opportunities for households around the world to actively participate in the energy transition. At the same time, the conference highlighted that important work still lies ahead. The continued development of harmonised standards, appropriate regulatory frameworks, cybersecurity, and consumer-oriented market design will require close cooperation between policymakers, industry, academia, and civil society.

We are proud that the Plug-In Solar Conference has become a meeting place for exactly this kind of cooperation. The ideas, partnerships, and initiatives that emerged during this year's event will continue long after the conference itself has ended.

Thank you once again for your participation, your trust, and your commitment. We look forward to welcoming you again next year as we continue working together to shape the future of Plug-In Solar.

Craig Morris

Managing Director

Bundesverband Steckersolar e.V.

Presentations and recordings from the event are available on demand. If you would like access to any of them, please contact us at proceedings@pluginsolarconference.com.



JOIN US!

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

The international effort to establish Plug-In Solar depends on a strong and reliable network that provides guidance, information, and support. The German Plug-In Solar Association, Bundesverband Steckersolar e.V. (BVSS), will continue to strengthen this network and support initiatives for decentralized renewable energy generation, storage, and use in countries around the world.

To achieve this, we rely heavily on the support of our members and partners. If you would like to contribute to our mission, we invite you to consider becoming a supporting member. You can find the available membership options in our membership form at:

<https://bundesverband-steckersolar.de/mitglied-werden/>

or use this QR-code.

