SolShare site suitability checklist

For SolShare system designers

ⓘ TIP
This checklist is designed to be used in conjunction with Allume's other guides and documents. The most up-to-date versions of all documents (including this document) are available in the Resource Library on Allume's website at https://allumeenergy.com/au/resource-library/

1. Checklist

When evaluating if a project is the right fit for SolShare, you should consider whether the building has appropriate characteristics.

- ☐ All tenancies are on the **same property title**
- ☐ Site has **three-phase supply** from grid/transformer into the property
- ☐ Ideally, building is **low or medium rise**, with around **5–60 tenants** (other buildings may be suitable)
- ☐ Building has **sufficient roof space** to supply solar to the tenants (as a rule of thumb, each tenant should be allocated an average of about 1kW–3kWp of solar generation, so we generally find that projects in high rise buildings with more than about 60 tenants do not have sufficient roof space to provide this solar generation allocation)
- ☐ Roof space is **unobstructed** and suitable for solar panels (no significant shading, etc.)
- ☐ Building has **access to bring solar panels** to the roof, or adequate space next to the building for a scissor lift or other method of bringing solar panels to the roof (and the owner/manager of that space is prepared to grant access to that space)
- ☐ Electricity meters and tenancy MAIN SWITCHES (NORMAL) for each tenancy and common light and power are ideally all **co-located in the main switchboard** (MSB), or **good access** exists between multiple distribution boards (DBs) for cabling to SolShare (e.g. in established and easy-to-access risers)
- ☐ **Wall space** exists ideally adjacent to meter panel/MSB/DBs to mount SolShare/s. Other options for SolShare locations include electrical cupboards/rooms, risers, outdoor walls, on the roof, etc.
- ☐ A **strong and stable internet connection** can be made available at the SolShare installation location/s (see SolShare internet guide for more information)
- ☐ Any additional requirements around i**nstallation configuration and/or interconnection have been confirmed for the relevant DNSP** (see the SolShare system design guide for more information).

2. Site visit notes

Item	Notes
Access instructions for site E.g. contact details of building manager, keycodes or key location, location onsite of MSB and stairs to roof or other important access areas.	
Details of any existing solar PV onsite E.g. size or kW PV, inverter make/model, any network protection already onsite, any SLDs, etc.	
Condition of existing MSB E.g. available space in the MSB for CTs and Tenancy Main Switches (inverter supply) as part of a SolShare installation, a switchboard upgrade may be required.	
Phases of each tenancy and common area • Record whether each tenancy has a single-phase or three-phase connection to the grid. • Record whether the common area has a single-phase or three-phase connection to the grid. • Record the phase of the grid connection (for any single-phase tenancy / common area).	
Condition of roof and access options to roof E.g. condition may require structural engineering, waterproofing, Klip-lok, etc. E.g. access may require internal stairs, lifts, or if a scissor lift or similar would be required.	
Suitable physical locations for inverter/s and SolShare/s E.g. in electrical cupboard, in riser, on outdoor wall, in a cage in common walkway area, etc. Note: SolShare is rated IP65 and is usually best placed as physically possible to the MSB or DBs as possible.	
Cable run options from roof to MSB / DBs E.g. risers available (and room inside them), outdoor cable runs, etc.	
Public internet options E.g. owner's corporation onsite internet networks, existing Ethernet connections or NBN connections where a Wi-Fi router can be added, strength of cellular network (check specific network to be used) at SolShare / inverter installation location.	
Essential / life-support loads onsite E.g. any loads that would need to continually receive power during any shutdown while solar is installed.	

3. Considerations for quoting a project with SolShare

Item	Required?	Impact to quote
Essential hardware costs (e.g. PV panels, racking, inverter/s, SolShare/s, cabling, cable trays/housing, switches, etc.)	Y	$
Labour to install	Y	$
Other hardware costs, e.g. solar optimisers for shading	Y / N	$
Lifting equipment, e.g. scissor lift, to get PV panels/inverters/SolShares on the roof, (e.g. scissor lift)	Y / N	$
DNSP application and administrative costs (e.g. interconnection application fees, special costs for negotiated contracts, witness testing fees, COES per tenancy, EWRs, etc.)	Y / N	$
Interface protection (check local DNSP guidelines, typically required for sites exceeding total inverter capacity of >30kVA or >200kVA regardless of number of NMIs)	Y / N	$
Main switchboard (MSB) and/or distribution board (DB) upgrades (to bring up to code, to allow space for CTs and/or tenancy MAIN SWITCHES (NORMAL) and MAIN SWITCHES (INVERTER), etc.)	Y / N	$
New walls/enclosures/cages/bollards/risers to mount or house any equipment (inverter/s, SolShare/s, cabling, etc.) safely and securely	Y / N	$
Costs associated with providing an internet connection (e.g. extending NBN cabling, Wi-Fi router, 4G modem, ongoing SIM plans, etc.). Ethernet is supported by SolShare 2 only.	Y / N	$
Back-up power options for essential / life-support loads during installation	Y / N	$
Any roof upgrades or construction work required	Y / N	$
Costs associated with Heritage Listing or similar protections (e.g. council applications, engineer or architect drawings, town planner approval, etc.)	Y / N	$
Upgrades to smart meters for each tenancy / common area power	Y / N	$
Other costs	Y / N	$

4. Any other notes