Renewable energy services at Farrer & Co

About us

Farrer & Co is synonymous with the highest quality legal advice and service.

We advise individuals, families, businesses, financial services, educational and not-for-profit organisations on every aspect of the law, wherever the need arises. From our offices in London we work with trusted professionals around the world to deliver a seamless international service.

Our clients present us with complex and varied challenges. Whether that's a complicated family trust issue, a multinational corporate transaction, or an emerging threat to their reputation, they need clear thinkers who can advise on the best solutions, fast thinkers when speed is of the essence and agile thinkers who can produce a fresh approach to get the job done.

That's why they choose us.



Jeremy Gordon Senior Partner



- Legal 500



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Commerciality and common sense

Very few renewable energy projects are 'off the peg' and working on them requires a delicate balance. At Farrer & Co we never lose sight of the commercial goal of getting rent and royalties flowing for the landowner, but we understand the need to be pragmatic in relation to the requirements of funders, DNOs and other third parties.

Our wider team has experience working for investors, operators and debt providers – dealing with initial structuring, joint ventures and funding – and as such, we enjoy a unique position of understanding deals from all angles. We can therefore advise in the round and develop creative, whole deal solutions in complex situations.

Whilst we do not look for problems where they do not exist, this commerciality must be balanced with a grasp of the landowner's other interests: design control to preserve the amenity of an estate; discretion over the routes of cable easements and the positioning of substations; the need for rock-solid restoration obligations.

360° Expertise

Working on wind, solar, hydro, anaerobic digestion or battery transactions for landowners requires a familiarity with the ever-widening range of competing land uses and an ability to piece them together, to create an estate that is truly sustainable both environmentally and financially, in the long term. There is no longer just traditional agriculture to consider, but also emergent, alternative land uses – natural capital, carbon sequestration and biodiversity schemes, to name a few – which require a thorough understanding of estate management and how these schemes need to be fitted together for optimal tax planning.



Planning issues and section 106 agreements



Obtaining vacant possession from tenants in tight timescales

- Construction and design issues
- Power purchase agreements (PPAs)
- Initial structuring, JVs and financing
 - Minerals law
 - Complex tax planning



Aside from renewable energy services Farrer & Co is working to build a more sustainable future in many ways. We invite you to our Tomorrow Together microsite to see more of what we do.

View our sustainability hub

Recent transactions and key contacts

- Option and lease for a 50MW 200 acre solar farm in Hampshire with sophisticated JV structures and tax planning.
- Option and lease for 12 turbine wind farm in South Wales involving profit-sharing arrangements with neighbouring landowners.
- Lease of AD Plant to JV vehicle in Dorset. The plant creates 850 cu m/hr of biogas and 10MW per day.
- Establishing a JV vehicle for the UK's first biomethane-to-grid digester plant.
- Corporate acquisition of 4 wind turbine sites in Cumbria for a foreign investment fund.
- Project agreement for the design, construction and operation of a 1,800kw CHP turbine at a national museum.
- Power purchase arrangement and hydroelectric scheme on the River Thames.
- Option and lease for 12 turbine, battery and solar hybrid project in Kent.

For further information please contact:



James Maxwell, Partner +44 (0)20 3375 7364 james.maxwell@farrer.co.uk

James is an expert in rural land law, who helps the country's foremost institutional landowners and private estates in the management of their rural property.



Paul Krafft, Partner +44 (0)20 3375 7442 paul.krafft@farrer.co.uk

Paul provides expert advice on agricultural property and development opportunities to institutions, estates and private landowners.



Complementary services

Planning and Environmental

We provide commercial and timely advice on the full range of planning and environmental law issues, including advising on nationally significant infrastructure projects, DCOs and CPOs, infrastructure planning and energy use. We are used to working closely with developers and landowners to navigate the planning process.



Karen Phull, Partner +44 (0)20 3375 7297 karen.phull@farrer.co.uk

Corporate

Farrer & Co's Corporate team has market-leading expertise in complex, high-value transactional and advisory work, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Our work includes acquisitions, disposals, fundraising, investment and joint ventures (including between investors, operators and landowners), as well as advising on initial structuring of energy deals.



Jonathan Haley, Partner +44 (0)20 3375 7552 jonathan.haley@farrer.co.uk

Tax

We advise on all aspects of personal and business tax and work closely with colleagues across the firm to provide comprehensive and joined-up advice to investors, businesses, institutions and charities. Our team gives practical, commercial and innovative solutions to complex tax and structure issues, including in relation to payments arising from renewable energy projects.



David Gubbay, Partner +44 (0)20 3375 7684 david.gubbay@farrer.co.uk

Private Client

We pride ourselves on our ability to bring our collective experience, which has been earned through working with families over many generations while looking after their assets, to create strategic and practical solutions to the issues they face. We advise clients on how best to integrate new revenue streams deriving from renewable energy projects into their existing estate planning.



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