

Report: Solar Streets  
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THE company 'Solar Streets' works through the Renewable Energy Systems Company, IDDEA , with local councils or local community groups to promote bulk purchase deals for household solar panels to residents in a concentrated geographical area. Prices are reduced compared to individual quotations due to economies of scale in surveying, installation and cost of panels, total cost £4,500 per household.

A minimum of 10 households, in the same area - not necessarily the same street, is required, and for every household that takes up the offer, the town gets £50 to put towards a community pot for future projects.

This pot of money could be used, for instance, to offer funds to someone who may want to install solar panels but can't afford the whole of the outlay (although there are installment plans available apparently).

The company helps with all the publicity, producing posters, fliers etc and setting up public meetings, with no extra cost to ourselves.

If any councillors have specific questions before next weeks' meeting, do ask and either myself or Wendy Duckham will try to answer them.

The Henley project is running successfully with over 50 requests for surveys. Based on activity in previous locations this is expected to lead to 35 installations which represents one percent of owner occupiers.

Similar projects have been run in Somerset and have been led by either a town council or a local community group.

It may be helpful for councillors to familiarise themselves with the Proposal PDF attachment from Heather Saunders, Corporate Energy Officer at South Oxon and The Vale, that Jayne shared with us on July 15, at 12.56 'Solar Streets Project'.

Solar Streets have offered to give a presentation about the scheme to the town council at our convenience, to explain more about how the scheme works and to answer any technical or other questions we may have.

The idea then is to proceed with Solar Streets next step, of making available a presentation online to the public over a weekend, and then hold a Webinar or similar where local people can ask questions, which would be helpful for us to gauge public opinion and level of support for the scheme.