

Amendment as circulated at meeting – 25 June 2019

Motion to Council
25 June 2019

Subject Support for community solar power

Proposer Councillor Maguire
Seconder Councillor Davis

Item

9a

Councillor Osborn to amend resolution (3) by inserting “**as soon as practicable**” after the word “report” as follows:

3) Ask the cabinet member for sustainable and safe city environment to present a report, **as soon as practicable**, detailing how Norwich City Council might develop new models of finance to support the local solar industry whilst also helping residents and businesses to benefit from renewable energy via the use of power purchase agreements (PPAs) and innovative behind-the-meter services,

So that the revised motion becomes:-

As a result of government reforms to the feed-in tariff, new solar installations have fallen by 90% since 2016 with an estimated 9000 jobs lost. In March they closed the feed-in tariff without clear plans for its replacement. From October 2019, in many cases VAT on energy saving installations will rise up to 20%. Despite these attacks upon clean energy generation Norwich City Council has pioneered recent positive examples, including the fitting of thermodynamic hot water installations, Solar Together and the imminent launch of Roar Power this autumn. With additional support from central government radical further progress could be achieved.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) Note with concern that according to the Solar Trade Association, new installations of solar PV have fallen by 90% since 2016. An estimated 9000 jobs were lost when the government reformed the Feed-in-Tariff in 2016 and a recent survey found that in response to the Government’s latest measures, removing the Feed-in-Tariff in its entirety, 40% of UK solar installers are considering leaving the industry entirely, while 78% of installers are considering reducing staff levels.
- 2) Ask the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support Labour’s plans to fit one and three quarter million homes with electricity-generating solar panels as part of its Green Industrial Revolution to ensure;
 - a) Direct fitting of solar panels on a million social homes and those of low-income households to tackle fuel poverty, provide them with free energy

and save an average of £117 a year on their bills, which could rise to £270 for retired households.

- b) Enable the installation of solar panels on an additional 750,000 homes through a programme of interest free loans, grants and changes to regulations.
 - c) Support Labour's community solar programme to:
 - i) publicly fund the installation of solar PV on one million homes (2.5GW of capacity, or the equivalent of one million homes with a 2.5KW system). This will target low income and social housing and be delivered as part of a retrofit programme. Any unused electricity generated by the programme will be used by the national grid, which the government would take into public ownership, raising an additional £66m per year for local authorities.
 - ii) provide interest free loans and grants to enable community groups to install solar PV at zero cost. Support will be made available under this programme for up to 250 thousand homes (625MW of capacity).
 - iii) provide interest free loans and grants to enable individuals to install solar PV at zero cost. Support will be made available under this programme for up to 250 thousand homes (625MW of capacity).
 - iv) Landlords renting energy inefficient properties (those within EPC bands G, F or E) will be required to install a 2.5KW solar PV system where appropriate roof space is available. The government will provide a zero-interest loan to landlords to cover the full upfront cost. It is anticipated that this will lead to the installation of 250,000 solar PV systems.
- 3) Ask the cabinet member for sustainable and safe city environment to present a report, as soon as practicable, detailing how Norwich City Council might develop new models of finance to support the local solar industry whilst also helping residents and businesses to benefit from renewable energy via the use of power purchase agreements (PPAs) and innovative *behind-the-meter* services.