

**Report to** Sustainable development panel  
23 September 2015  
**Report of** Executive head of regeneration and development  
**Subject** Solar Together Update Report

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**Item**

**6**

**Purpose**

This report is for information.

**Recommendation**

That the contents of the report are noted.

**Corporate and service priorities**

Safe Clean and low Carbon City. Prosperous and Vibrant City. Healthy City With Good Housing.

**Financial implications**

None.

**Ward/s:** All wards

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Bremner – Environmental strategy

**Contact officers**

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**Background documents**

None

## Report – Mid progress of Solar Together

1. Thousands of people across Norfolk have registered interest in the UK's first reverse auction for solar panels scheme. To date 3,540 households and businesses across the county registered for Solar Together Norfolk were offered average savings of 16 per cent. Norwich City, Broadland, South Norfolk and North Norfolk district councils have worked in partnership with specialist collective purchasing company iChoosr to run the scheme.

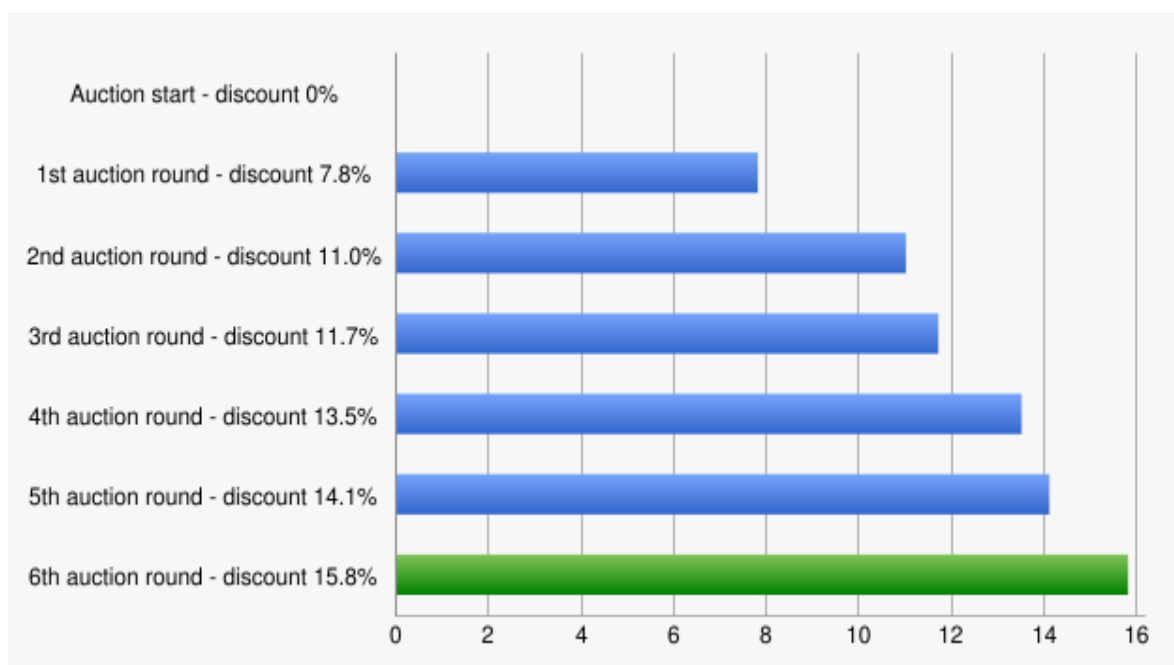


Figure 1 – Solar Together Auction Results

2. After a one-day auction process, the savings offered to participants were between 11 per cent and 19 per cent below the current market price for solar panels. The average saving works out at 16 per cent.
3. For example, a household which requires 16 solar panels would normally expect to pay around £5,740 in the current market. But with Solar Together Norfolk the cost would be £4,630, a saving of £1,100.
4. The winning contractor for the work was a Job Worth Doing Ltd, which is one of the leading UK installers of energy efficiency products. It is accredited by the Renewable Energy Association and has ISO9001 accreditation for high quality standards. All work will be done by Norfolk installers, which are part of the organisation's existing network.
5. The aim of Solar Together Norfolk was to offer quality competitively-priced solar panels with a guarantee, installed by a reputable installer for sustainable, clean and environmentally-friendly energy.
6. Householders and businesses had until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of September to decide whether to take up the offer. There are no costs or obligations up until this point.

7. To date 700 people have accepted their deal. This work has a total value of over £3 million. To keep up with the orders our contractor will need to install 30 – 40 new solar PV installs each week.
8. In late August, the government proposed a cut of 87% in the generation tariff, reducing this income to a mere 4p per generated kWh. This proposed reduction is due to be implemented on 1 January 2016 for every domestic PV installation.
9. There is no impact on the Solar Together Norfolk scheme, as people who accept their offer are guaranteed their installation is completed in time to apply for the current Feed-in-Tariffs. These are then guaranteed for the next 20 years and will annually adjust with the Retail Price Index. The installer Job Worth Doing will be able to install a 1000 households in time. The scheme is expected to stay well within their capabilities.
10. Regrettably this innovative project will not be repeated due to the proposed FIT reduction. However, it is worth noting that this programme has enabled our citizens to access the solar market via a council backed scheme. Thus allowing people to access the market with confidence just before the FIT incentives are reduced or removed.