

NEWS RELEASE



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SOLAR SCHEME LAUNCHED FOR RESIDENTS

Residents looking to save on energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions are being invited to take part in an innovative new scheme.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has teamed up with Kent County Council for Solar Together Kent, a group-buying initiative for solar panels and battery storage.

It is being rolled out county-wide following its success across the country in the past few years. This has seen 3,700 installations of the high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an impressive 61,000 tonnes of avoided lifetime carbon emissions.

It is free to register with Solar Together Kent and there is no obligation to proceed to installation. Working with iChoosr, independent experts in group buying, homeowners will be helped through the process and kept informed at every stage.

Anyone interested in the scheme should register before 15 March, providing details about their roof. The more people that register, the better the deal should be for each household.

On 15 March, Solar Together Kent's approved installers will bid for the work in a reverse 'auction'. The most competitive offer from these pre-vetted installers will win the auction.

From 4 April, applicants will be emailed a personal recommendation for their home, based on their registration details. This includes costs and specifications of their system.

They can then decide whether to accept the recommendation. There is no obligation to continue and applicants have until 13 May to decide. Telephone and email support will be available throughout the process, which, together with information sessions, will allow households to make an informed decision.

If an applicant decides to go ahead, the winning installer will carry out a roof survey and set an installation date. All installations are planned to be completed by the end of October 2022.

Anyone who already has solar panels installed can register to have battery storage added.

Cllr Lesley Whybrow, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “Reducing carbon emissions is a priority for Folkestone & Hythe District Council: as well as being committed to reduce our own carbon emission to net zero by 2030, we want to help the local community do the same.

“Solar Together Kent will go some way in trying to achieve this and makes the switch to clean energy as cost effective and hassle-free as possible. I hope that many homeowners will take part in this community-led initiative.”

For detailed information about likely costs and the amount of energy that is expected to be generated and to register, go to <https://solartogether.co.uk/folkestone-and-hythe/home>

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Notes to Editors:

About iChoosr

iChoosr was founded in 2008 and is privately owned by two co-founders. Before it entered the UK energy market in 2012, it focused on group-buying schemes in the

Netherlands and Belgium. It now works with community leaders helping households select energy and solar power suppliers. As in the UK, its operations continue to grow across Europe, North America and Japan.

For more information, please email communications@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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