

APPENDIX A

Project Aims

The following aims were endorsed by Council on 20 May, 2013

- *To reduce greenhouse emissions in the Darebin community and organisation towards progress of the 2020 zero emissions targets.*
- *To increase the amount of renewable energy in Darebin.*
- *To facilitate, catalyse and develop mechanisms to develop scaled up solar and resource efficiency projects.*
- *To future-proof the community and council against increasing energy prices, particularly low income households in our community most vulnerable to increasing energy costs.*
- *To develop long term financing and management models which provide benefits for the community and Council, including leveraging funds from government grants and philanthropy.*
- *To demonstrate council leadership, engage with and inspire the community regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency*
- *To create community resilience and pride.*

Letter and Survey Form



Dear resident,

Council is considering a new program to install solar panels to generate electricity on 200 homes through a no interest payment plan. Over a 10 year period, participating households are expected to save more on their electricity bills than they pay for the solar, and the solar panels are likely to offer savings for the full 20 years of their expected life. If up-front costs are a concern for you, and you are interested in saving on your electricity bill with solar, this offer could be a solution.

You are one of 3000 ratepayers who receive pensioner rate rebates being surveyed to find out if you are concerned about your electricity bills and to see if this program could help. We appreciate your views and ask you to fill out and return this survey in the reply paid envelope provided by Thursday 17 October.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cr Tim Laurence, Mayor



Speak your language:
Multilingual support 8470 8470



Deaf, speech or hearing-impaired support (NRS): TTY dial 133 677 or Speak & Listen dial 1300 555 727 or www.iprelay.com.au then enter 03 8470 8888

Contact City of Darebin

274 Gower St, Preston 3072

Tel: 8470 8888 | Email: mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au

Website: www.darebin.vic.gov.au

يشتمل هذا الاستبيان على أسئلة بشأن مخاوفكم المرتبطة بتكاليف الكهرباء واهتمامكم بألواح الطاقة الشمسية. لمزيد من المعلومات بلغتكم، يرجى الاتصال على 8470 8470.

本調查所含問題與您對用電成本的擔憂和對太陽能電池板的興趣相關。如需使用您的母語查詢更多資訊，請致電 8470 8470。

Η έρευνα αυτή περιέχει ερωτήσεις σχετικές με το ενδιαφέρον σας για το κόστος του ηλεκτρικού ρεύματος και το ενδιαφέρον σας για τα ηλιακά συστήματα (solar panels). Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας καλέστε το 8470 8470.

इस सर्वेक्षण में बिजली मूल्य के संबंध में आपकी चिंताओं और सौर पैनलों में आपकी रुचि के बारे में पूछा जाएगा है. अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानकारी के लिए 8470 8470 पर संपर्क करें.

Questo sondaggio contiene domande che riguardano la vostra apprensione rispetto alle tariffe dell'energia elettrica e il vostro interesse verso i pannelli solari. Per ulteriori informazioni nella vostra lingua contattate il numero 8470 8470.

Оваа анкета содржи прашања во врска со вашите грижи за трошоците за електрична енергија и вашиот интерес за соларни панели. За повеќе информации на македонски јазик јавете се на 8470 8470.

Sahankani wuxuu ka koobmaa su'aallo khuseeya qiimaha korontada iyo danayntaada aallada ilayska ka dhalisa korontada. Macluumaad intaas ka badan oo afka Soomaaliga wac 8470 8470.

Bản thăm dò ý kiến này chứa các câu hỏi liên quan đến mối lo lắng của quý vị về tiền điện và ý muốn của quý vị liên quan tới tấm thu năng lượng mặt trời. Muốn biết thêm thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, xin quý vị gọi số 8470 8470.



ELECTRICITY COST AND SOLAR SURVEY

By completing and returning this short survey you will help Council understand about your electricity bill concerns and whether solar might be an option you would consider to reduce your electricity costs.

Please complete the survey and **return it in the reply paid envelope by Thursday October 17th 2013**. For any questions regarding the survey please call 8470 8535. Thank you for your assistance.

Q1: How concerned are you about increasing electricity bill costs?

Please answer using a 1 - 5 scale where 1 is 'Not at all concerned' and '5' is 'Very Concerned'

- 1 2 3 4 5

Q2: Which of the following actions would you consider to reduce electricity bills?

Please tick all that apply

- Turn off appliances and lights when not needed
- Replace old appliances with energy efficient appliances
- Install solar panels on roof
- Other _____
- I have already installed solar – *if you ticked this you don't need to fill out the survey any further.*
- None, I do not care about electricity cost
- None, I have reduced it as much as I can

Q3. Please list the three main reasons that you do not have solar.

Please tick up to 3 boxes only.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot afford the upfront cost | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know if solar panels would save me money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels take too long to pay off | <input type="checkbox"/> Solar systems are not worth the money they cost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My roof is not suitable | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not care about the environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am thinking of moving/selling my house | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not trust solar panel companies |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough about solar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested in solar | <input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels are ugly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Q4: What would encourage you to consider installing solar panels (for electricity) on your home's roof: *Please tick all that apply*

- Knowing the savings in my electricity costs would pay off the solar panel in under 5 -10 years
- Knowing I am doing something for the environment
- A low interest 10 year loan
- Ability to pay off the cost of the system through Council rates over 10 years
- A good value solar deal and installer organised by Council
- Nothing – I do not want solar panels / my roof is not suited
- Other

Q5: What was your household’s electricity bill for the most recent 3 months (quarter)?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 0 -100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 101-150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 151-200 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 201-250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 251- 300 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 301-350 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 351 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Q6: How many people normally live in your home?.....

Q7: How interested are you in a Solar Panel System purchased through Council on a 10 year Interest Free Loan? Please note repayments would be linked to Council rates and would stay with the property owner, so just like Council rates, if you sell your home, the remaining repayments would be passed on to the new owner, as the solar system stays with the property.

Please answer using a 1 - 5 scale where 1 is 'Not at all interested' and '5' is 'Very interested'

- 1 2 3 4 5



Expression of Interest

If the solar program goes ahead up to 200 solar systems could be installed at Darebin ratepayers homes in early 2014. Would you like to be one of the first 200 homes to participate in this program?

- Yes No

If yes – please provide your contact details below. Your information will be kept entirely confidential and only used for the purpose of the Solar Panel Purchase Program. This is an expression of interest only and there is no obligation in filling out this form.

Name:.....
Street Address
Phone
Email.....

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the survey in the reply paid envelope by Thursday October 17th 2013.

PRESTON

Solar project a first

IT'S EXPECTED THAT OTHER COUNCILS WILL FOLLOW

Julia Irwin



Lexie says she has paid lower electricity bills since installing solar panels on her Preston home.

Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

NEWS

Pensioners get solar powered

A NEW Darebin Council-funded scheme will see solar panels installed at 200 low-income households. In what is believed to be an Australian first, anyone who currently receives a pensioner rebate on their council rates is eligible to apply.

PAGE 3

DAREBIN Council is claiming an Australian first with a plan to use a special rate charge to fund a scheme to provide solar power to low-income earners.

The council set aside \$900,000 from its 2013/2014 budget to fund a program to install solar panel systems in up to 200 households.

Darebin Mayor Tim Laurence said the council was planning to use the special rate charge scheme for participating households for purchase and repayment of the solar systems through a council-hosted bulk-buy program.

"This will support low-income households and reduce the barriers of upfront cost and challenging repayment schedules," Cr Laurence said.

Greens councillor Trent McCarthy said the proposal made great financial sense given electricity prices doubled in the past five years.

"Anyone that signs up will be able to pay off the cost of their system within 10 years through their rates," Cr McCarthy said.

"A good quality solar sys-

tem costs around \$4000, so that's \$400 per year for 10 years.

"However, many households will save more than \$400 off their power bills within the first year, so they'll already be beating the power companies."

Cr McCarthy said other councils were likely to follow Darebin's example, which could significantly increase the uptake of solar.

Approximately 5 per cent of households in Darebin

have solar panels, which is in line with the Australian average.

Preston resident Lexie, 89, is among Darebin's solar energy pioneers, having installed solar hot water in 1983 and a six-panel photovoltaic (solar panel) renewable power generation plant in 1999.

She said the electricity generated from the system was fed back into the electricity system and credited on her energy bills, which

were the envy of friends and neighbours.

"My bills are far less, about \$40 for three months, while most people pay hundreds of dollars more," Lexie said. She applauded the council project saying it would help older people on pensions who were struggling with energy bills.

Will this scheme help low-income earners save electricity costs?
prestonleader.com.au

AT A GLANCE

- Any Darebin resident who currently receives the pensioner rebate on their rates is eligible for the council's solar panels scheme

- Residents who qualify for the scheme can register interest by phoning the council on 8470 8535

- They can also email gavin.mountjoy@darebin.vic.gov.au

APPENDIX D

Written Survey Results

Q1: How concerned are you about increasing electricity bill costs?

Answer	Frequency	Average calculations		(Valid) Percentage
1	9	9	2.20%	2.5%
2	9	18	2.20%	2.5%
3	25	75	6.20%	7.0%
4	54	216	13.40%	15.1%
5	261	1305	64.90%	72.9%
Unanswered	44	1623	10.90%	358
Total	402			

Average on a 1-5 scale: **4.53** (very high response)

Q2: Which of the following actions would you consider to reduce electricity bills?

As this is a 'choose all that apply' question, quote 'Percentage of Respondents'

	Responses		Percent of Respondents
	N	Percent of responses	
Turn off appliances and lights when not needed	316	37.4%	79.8%
Replace old appliances with energy efficient ones	184	21.8%	46.5%
Install solar panels on roof	214	25.3%	54.0%
Other	18	2.1%	4.5%
I have already installed solar	58	6.9%	14.6%
None, I do not care about electricity cost	3	0.4%	0.8%
None, I have reduced it as much as I can	52	6.2%	13.1%
Total	845	100.0%	213.4%

Q3. Please list the three main reasons that you do not have solar

As this is a 'choose all that apply' question, quote 'Percentage of Respondents'

	Responses		Percent of Respondents
	N	Percent of responses	
I cannot afford the upfront cost	243	28.9%	73.4%
Solar panels take too long to pay off	143	17.0%	43.2%
My roof is not suitable	30	3.6%	9.1%
I am thinking of moving/selling my house	16	1.9%	4.8%
I am not interested in solar	31	3.7%	9.4%
I don't know if solar panels would save me money	138	16.4%	41.7%
Solar systems are not worth the money they cost	27	3.2%	8.2%
I do not care about the environment	1	0.1%	0.3%
I do not trust solar panel companies	52	6.2%	15.7%
I don't know enough about solar	95	11.3%	28.7%
Solar panels are ugly	19	2.3%	5.7%
Other	46	5.5%	13.9%
Total	841	100.0%	254.1%

Q4: What would encourage you to consider installing solar panels (for electricity) on your home's roof:

Please tick all that apply

	Responses		Percent of Respondents
	N	Percent	
Knowing the savings in my electricity costs would pay off the solar panels in under 5-10 years	187	23.0%	59.4%
Knowing I am doing something for the environment	126	15.5%	40.0%
A low interest 10 year loan	80	9.8%	25.4%
Ability to pay off the cost of the system through Council rates over 10 years	148	18.2%	47.0%
A good value solar deal and installer organised by Council	172	21.1%	54.6%
nothing - I do not want solar panels/ my roof is not suited	51	6.3%	16.2%
Other	50	6.1%	15.9%
Total	814	100.0%	258.4%

Demographics

Q5: What was your household's electricity bill for the most recent 3 months (quarter)?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid \$ 0-100	2	0.5%	0.6%
\$ 101 - 150	8	2.0%	2.5%
\$ 151 - 200	38	9.5%	11.9%
\$ 201 - 250	56	14.0%	17.6%
\$ 251 - 300	54	13.5%	17.0%
\$ 301 -350	50	12.5%	15.7%
\$ 351 or more	96	23.9%	30.2%
Don't know	14	3.5%	4.4%
Total	318	79.3%	
Missing System	83	20.7%	
Total	401	100.0%	100.0%

Q6: How many people normally live in your home?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	71	17.7%
1	103	25.7%
1 occasionally 2	1	0.2%
1-2	2	0.5%
10	1	0.2%
2	113	28.2%
2 sometimes 3	1	0.2%

2+	1	0.2%
3	44	11.0%
3 sometimes 4	1	0.2%
3 to 10	1	0.2%
3 to 4	1	0.2%
4	18	4.5%
5	11	2.7%
6	5	1.2%
7	1	0.2%
8	1	0.2%
9	1	0.2%
Blank	22	5.5%
did not answer "Blank"	1	0.2%
N/A	1	0.2%
Total	401	100.0%

How Interested are you in Solar Panels?

Q7: How interested are you in a Solar Panel System purchased through Council on a 10 year Interest Free Loan?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1	68	17.0%	21.8%
	2	13	3.2%	4.2%
	3	47	11.7%	15.1%
	4	52	13.0%	16.7%
	5	132	32.9%	42.3%
	Total	312	77.8%	
Missing	System	89	22.2%	
Total		401	100.0%	100.0%

Average Response: 3.54

Q8: If the Solar Program goes ahead up to 200 solar systems could be installed at Darebin ratepayers homes in early 2004.

Would you like to be one of the first 200 homes to participate in this program?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	196	48.9%	49.7%
	No	198	49.4%	50.3%
	Total	394	98.3%	
Missing	Did not answer	7	1.7%	
Total		401	100.0%	100.0%