

News & Views From SML

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Case Study

GRANT FUNDING FOR SOLAR HOT WATER AT DEVON SCHOOL

Work is underway on a SML grant-funded solar water heating system at Great Torrington Community School near Barnstaple in Devon.

SML partner company, Southern Solar Limited, were approached by consulting engineers Faber Maunsell to design, supply and install the system which is part of a £2.1 million building project being headed up by developers Rok.

The specialist sports college was eligible for 30% funding of the total purchase and installation costs through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 scheme.

The solar water heating system incorporates five 2m² Filsol flat plate collectors which have been integrated into the roof of the refurbished building. These high efficiency collectors are connected to a 500 litre mains pressure storage cylinder which provides hot water for the toilets and sink units in the new teaching facilities.



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100% Funding Opportunity for Solar Energy Systems in Schools and Community Buildings

A new grant scheme has been launched which could enable schools and community based organizations in England to obtain up to 100% funding for solar water heating and solar photovoltaic (PV) installations.

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) is an £8 million open grants programme run by BRE and funded through the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces Programme. The scheme has been set up to help community based organizations to reduce their energy bills and environmental impact, whilst helping to raise public awareness of the social and environmental advantages to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions. CSEP will provide capital grants of up to 50% towards the cost of technologies such as solar hot water and PV systems. Importantly, CSEP funding can also be used in conjunction

with grants of up to 50% through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 scheme. As a Framework Supplier for LCBP Phase 2, SML are therefore able to offer grant funding of up to 100% of the total purchase and installation costs of solar energy systems.



Speaking at the CSEP launch, BRE Chief Executive Pete Bonfield said: "This scheme will enable community based organizations that often have the enthusiasm, but not the means, to take action on climate change."

CSEP grants will only be awarded to eligible not-for-profit community based organizations in England. This includes schools and colleges, community groups, parish councils, registered charities and trusts, and church or other faith based organizations.

To find out more about the CSEP grants go to www.communitysustainable.org.uk or call SML to discuss your project on 01295 201201.

Organizations eligible for both 50% CSEP funding and 50% LCBP2 grants include:

- Schools and colleges
- Community groups
- Parish councils
- Registered charities and trusts.

Market News

ENERGY PRICE HIKE WARNINGS

Analysts have warned that recent continued increases in crude oil prices could herald a new round of gas and electricity price increases.

A report in April by the Energy Saving Trust forecast that domestic energy bills are set to rise between 10% and 25% over the next 12 months, raising average bills by another £180 to £190 towards a total annual sum of around £1,200.

The prediction comes as NPower, Britain's fourth largest power supplier, raised prices for new internet customers by up to 20% in what is perceived by many as the first step that power suppliers are gearing up for a fresh round of price increases this summer.

Around 4.5 million households in Britain - roughly one in five - are already classified as being in fuel poverty, defined as needing to spend more than 10% of household income on energy. Earlier in April, The Times reported that in 2008 another million UK householders could be plunged into fuel poverty should fears of a 25% rise in domestic energy bills be realized.

Company News

NEW SML WEBSITE AND INFORMATION PACKS

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our clients fully informed, we have launched a new-look website and customer information pack.

For details on our products, services and available grant funding, as well as various case studies, technical data, photo images, and news items visit www.solarmicrogeneration.co.uk.

To receive a copy of our new information pack in the post, email info@solarmicrogeneration.co.uk.

Northants Housing Association Goes Solar

Residents of a Northamptonshire Housing Association are benefiting from significantly reduced heating bills thanks to SML solar water heating systems. SML partner company SolarTech Limited installed the systems on twelve properties as part of a wider ongoing energy efficiency programme by Rushden-based Rockingham Forest Housing Association (RFHA).

SolarTech were initially awarded the tender to undertake the first phase of six solar water heating installations in January 2007. Following SML's appointment as a Framework Supplier under the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 funding scheme, SolarTech were then called in to complete a further six installations, this time being able to offer RFHA the added benefit of 30% grant funding on the total purchase and installation costs.

Each of the solar systems installed includes up to 4m² Filsol flat plate solar collectors which have been fixed onto the existing roof structures. The collectors are linked to new single and dual coil hot water cylinders. Each



system can be expected to reduce household energy consumption by 1,500 to 2,000kWh per year, providing as much as 70% of the total annual hot water requirement per household.

The 12 houses were selected for solar water heating following RFHA's open invitation to tenants to opt-in to their solar programme. RFHA's decision to include solar water heating in the energy efficiency initiative was based on a desire to give their tenants cheaper heating bills, whilst also helping to reduce carbon emissions. Solar water heating also offered a low maintenance solution over the lifetime of the systems.

SML On Tour To Highlight LCBP2 Grant Increases

SML will appear at a number of free events across the UK to promote the increased grant funding levels available under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP).

The eight events, hosted by DBERR and BRE, are open to representatives of organizations who are eligible for the grants including Housing Associations, Local Authorities, public service organizations, schools, colleges, universities, and registered charities.

The first event will be held in Bristol on 14

May with subsequent events in Nottingham, Watford, Manchester, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Newcastle and London throughout May and June.

As a Framework Supplier under the Phase 2 scheme, SML will be present at all 8 events to demonstrate how eligible organizations can now benefit from 50% grants on both solar water heating and PV systems.

For further details on all of the events visit www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/events.

SML is a consortium of three of the UK's leading solar energy companies.

