

# eCoton Solar Savers

## 2015-16



Following on from the hugely successful eCoton Go Solar! Project in 2011, a new team of volunteers from across the SPEP (Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership) network came together to form another Solar energy project for residents across the district of South Cambridgeshire.

### Project Outline:

- The aim was to help residents from across the district to install their own home solar PV system.
- We aimed to supply residents with unbiased information and help reduce the difficulty and leg work of finding and vetting a local supplier.
- By selecting an installer we achieved a discount based on the ability of the installer to reduce their costs by bulk ordering of their materials.
- Interested residents invited to a meeting with the eCoton Solar Savers group and the installer to explain the project, Solar PV and its installation.
- The Householders who went ahead each entered into individual contracts with the company, so that fundamentally we were there to advertise and coordinate the project.



### Project Impacts:

- 130+ Interested homeowners from across the district.
- 70 Home surveys carried out by Cambridge Solar.
- 39 Installations, most at the larger size of 3.9kw and with home usage/ generation monitoring equipment.
- Several residents also had installations but with different installers outside the scheme and a number of neighbours and friends have followed those in the project, installing their own systems.

### Project Challenges:

Due to government announcements about dramatic reductions to the feed in rates in early 2016, the project had to be launched much earlier than expected, and then had to be limited when we reached over 100 interested parties!

### Choosing our Installer:

- As one of the key aims of the project was to reduce the difficulty in installer choice, finding a suitable company was vital.
- To begin this process we started by forming a list of recommended local independent installers, utilising the SPEP network and our own neighbours and friends.
- Once we had shortlisted a number we sent out an invitation to tender for the project and then moved forward interviewing a selection of the respondents.
- We chose Cambridge Solar as we decided that they were the best fit to our wishes for the project. Being local, highly knowledgeable, competitive and coming highly recommended.

### The Group:

Tom Clarke - Haslingfield SPEP  
Carolyn Postgate - eCoton (& eCoton Go Solar)  
Peter Fane - Great Shelford  
Mike Leedham - Milton  
Christine and Brian Bromwich - Sustainable Girton  
Amanda Fuller - eCoton (& eCoton Go Solar)



### Contact us:

If you're thinking of running your own project and want to find out more or get some advice contact us at:

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