

## **Solar Schools Motion**

This Council welcomes the 'Run on Sun' campaign that has been launched by Friends of the Earth to

- a) Promote clean energy;
- b) Make it easier for schools to invest in solar power, and
- c) Raise awareness of the financial, practical and environmental benefits of schools being powered by solar energy.

This Council also welcomes the extensive work that has been successfully carried out by the officers of our Environmental Policy Team and TDA in recent years to reduce the Council's energy bills and invest in clean, renewable energy.

This Council applauds the pioneering spirit and vision shown by the staff, students and governors of Saltaire Primary School in West Yorkshire, where the solar panels installed in August last year are operating successfully.

This Council notes that:

- a) Solar photovoltaic and thermal panels are an affordable renewable energy technology that can be quickly installed and easily maintained across Torbay's schools estate;
- b) The capital investment required for solar photovoltaic panels is typically repaid within 7-9 years (by reduced electricity bills and feed-in-tariff income) and the energy generated for 25-40 years is free to the school;
- c) Friends of the Earth estimate that the financial benefits per school can be as high as £8,000 per annum;
- d) The use of solar technologies contributes towards cutting Torbay's carbon footprint;
- e) Solar technologies are a visible symbol of our determination as a community to reduce our carbon footprint and build energy security across Torbay; and
- f) Solar technologies are a fantastic educational resource that can boost awareness of sustainable energy among children and local families;

This Council therefore requests, (wherever possible involving Community Groups) that:

- i) In light of falling installation costs the Director of Place and Torbay Development Agency re-evaluate the business case for installation of solar technology on school and council buildings;
- ii) Should the business case prove positive then the Director of Place engages as proactively as possible with Torbay's schools to ensure the maximum and earliest roll-out of solar technologies across the schools estate;

- iii) the Environmental Policy Team launches a high profile and well-publicised borough-wide campaign to encourage our schools to invest in solar technologies; and
- iv) the Environmental Policy Team liaises closely with Friends of the Earth to ensure that Torbay Council is positively involved in the 'Run on Sun' campaign.

Proposed: Councillor Baldrey  
Seconded: Councillor Pountney