

Item No: Item 7

Subject: RENEWABLE ENERGY MASTER PLAN—OUR ENERGY FUTURE UPDATE

File Ref:

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SUMMARY

Our Energy Future (OEF) is an initiative of the Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC). It is a key project within the SSROC Renewable Energy Master Plan. The ultimate goal of the Renewable Energy Master Plan is to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy uptake in southern Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Strategic Reference Group notes:

- 1. The October Inner West solar campaign through Our Energy Future**
 - 2. That during October there were 182 requests for solar quotes from inner west residents through Our Energy Future**
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BACKGROUND

Our Energy Future (OEF) is an initiative of the Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC). It is a key project within the Southern Sydney SSROC Renewable Energy Master Plan. The ultimate goal of the Renewable Energy Master Plan is to significantly increase the amount of renewable energy uptake in southern Sydney. Through Our Energy Future, Inner West Council is offering specialised energy services to inner west residents. There is a dedicated helpline and website: ourenergyfuture.org.au/. Residents and businesses can also request quotes directly from approved suppliers.

The Our Energy Future service is run by 'Positive Charge' who are part of the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation set up by Moreland City Council in 2000, to work with the local community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the program, Council has embarked on a dedicated promotional campaign with the aim to increase the number of requests for quotes and eventually the number of solar energy installations and other services. The first Inner West LGA campaign ran for the month of October. A letter from the Mayor was sent out to 15,000 households on 3 October 2017, informing them of the program and inviting them to take part (see attachment). The website and helpline were continuously promoted through Council's social media channels, and in the Council eNews and Enviro eNews.

In addition, Project Manager Rob Kyle had an information stall at the Footprints Ecofestival in August and at Marrickville Festival in October. Staff spoke with festival-goers about the program, gave out information and had a sign-up sheet. The Green Living Centre ran an Intro to Solar workshop on 28 October, attended by 17 people. Our Energy Future will run a Solar Made Simple workshop on 15 November; there are currently 37 people registered out of 40 available spaces.

During October, there were 197 requests for solar quotes from inner west residents and 3 sales orders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within existing budget

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mayoral letter to residents—residential solar campaign 3 Oct 2017
2. Our Energy Future flyer—residential solar campaign

ATTACHMENT 1

3 October 2017

Dear Resident

Are you considering solar energy at your property?

Inner West Council is pleased to offer you an opportunity to find out more about the suitability of solar energy for your property and obtain an obligation free quote from a carefully selected supplier.

We understand that purchasing and installing solar energy can be confusing and difficult to navigate.

To make it simple, Council has engaged independent energy experts at Our Energy Future to provide reliable and independent advice on the suitability of solar for you.

They can also help source an obligation-free quote from a carefully selected, reliable and reputable solar supplier.

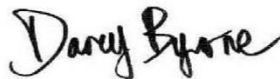
All systems available through this offer come with a 25 year performance warranty.

This program is part of Council's broader commitment to becoming a national leader in renewable energy.

Solar Panels in most instances do not require development approval from Council.

To find out more about how our energy future can help you to acquire solar energy please call 1300 339 915 or visit: ourenergyfuture.org.au/

Yours sincerely



Darcy Byrne

Mayor

P.O. Box 14 Petersham 2049 | P (02) 9392 5000 | E council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au**Customer Service Centres | Petersham 2-14 Fisher Street | Leichhardt 7-15 Wetherill Street | Ashfield 260 Liverpool Road**

ATTACHMENT 2



Thinking about solar panels?

Join a council-supported solar campaign program!

Inner West Council is working with the energy experts at Our Energy Future to make it easy for local households to save money on their electricity bills by generating their own clean, safe power.

- » Reputable solar suppliers have been selected
- » A quality system is available for a great price
- » Independent advice and support is on-hand
- » Rebates and discounts claimed on your behalf

For an obligation-free solar quote:

Register at ourenergyfuture.org.au

or call 1300 339 915

