

## **Appendix B: Case Study of Local Installers working on Warmer Homes**

David Lewis, Strategy Director at Infinity Energy Services

We are a local Hampshire company and being able to work close to home with Portsmouth City Council reduces our carbon footprint (less travel) and boosts our employees' morale.

In addition, being an approved installer on the Switched On Solar scheme has meant a noticeable increase in our project pipeline, which brings stability and predictability to the business. To manage this growth, we have also needed to recruit for several roles and have taken on two members of staff who live in Portsmouth itself.

Every solar panel system we install results in lower energy costs for a Portsmouth resident. This makes us proud. It's great to be working in a sector that brings real, tangible benefits to the local community and helps the environment at the same time.

We're also finding more and more interest in technologies that complement solar PV panels, such as battery storage, LED lighting, and electric vehicle chargers. These combined systems make sense for both residential and commercial customers, and with prices coming down all the time, they are becoming increasingly affordable.

There's never been a better time to invest in renewable energy technology. Solar panel systems have halved in price in the last five years, and now with the boom in electric vehicles, customers can even charge their cars with free electricity from the sun.

Steve Jackson, Managing Director at Space Renewable Energy

Space Renewable Energy are a Portsmouth based company, so being an approved installer for Switched On Portsmouth, and working on the Warmer Homes project, has helped to drive the ethos of the company by helping the local area. It has been a privilege to be able to assist households in managing their energy more effectively and installing solar panels to contribute free electricity to their homes. This subsequently contributes to a 'greener' home, reducing the energy bills and carbon footprint of the household.

By being a part of this partnership, it has given us the ability to employ local, young candidates who are not afraid to work hard, strive for perfection and wish to further their interest in renewable energy. SRE also use local suppliers which benefits the city as a whole. The recent recruitment and training of two new Portsmouth-based members of staff, new to the solar industry, has been a good example of this.

Prior to the installation of renewable energy technologies, it is fair to say that most people may not fully understand how they can manage their appliances more efficiently. However, once we have installed the Solar PV system and guided our customers on the best way to utilise the energy they quickly see the gains; both financially and environmentally.

We feel that it is really important that post-installation we leave the customer to familiarise themselves with the system. After one week, we return to check all is going well. Upon returning we are pleased to hear that they are managing their consumption thoroughly, with one customer quoting: "I have charged two electric bikes and used the washing machine several times and still exported unused energy back to the grid."!

I think it's great that Portsmouth City Council are helping low-income households to install solar and other energy efficiency measures to help keep their bills low. We look forward to helping the Council in promoting and supporting this green agenda moving forward.