

Group sheds sunlight on its electricity bills

CARRIE CATTERALL

carrie.catterall@kenilworthweeklynews.co.uk

SOLAR energy will be powering a group of Kenilworth homes from now on thanks to special roof panels fitted this week.

The homeowners who invested in the new system believe they will now save money on energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint.

They got together earlier this year after Jan Burnell, who lives in Inchbrook Road, discovered that Action 21, the Leamington-based sustainability promoter, had negotiated a group discount arrangement with Eco2Solar, a PV and solar thermal supplier in Kidderminster.

Mrs Burnell, a Kenilworth Initiative for Climate Change member, said: "The first scaffolding arrived this week for the installation of solar energy systems on 12 Kenilworth houses.

"People are buying now because it's financially very attractive, not so much because of what you save, but because of what you earn by producing.

"In fact it is so attractive that lots of people just don't believe it at first.

"According to the information about the system, an initial investment of £10,000



Jan Burnell and Jennifer Matthews, whose house is being fitted with the panels by Rob Waterhouse and Josh Bennett . MHLIC-12-10-10 solar Oct62-02

brings in an income, plus savings, of around £1,000 a year, every year for 25 years, which is a total of more than £25,000 plus free electricity.

"If there's somewhere else where you can get that kind

of guaranteed deal, legally, then I'd like someone to tell me."

Cllr John Whitehouse (Lib Dem, Abbey) was one of the homeowners who took part in the group purchase of solar

panels. He said: "I think it's a great initiative, both financially and environmentally."

If you are a Kenilworth homeowner and would like to join the next group purchase scheme call 857226.