

Update from Hampshire County Council – September 2022

Hampshire residents offered another chance to generate green energy and save on bills

Residents considering investing in solar panels for their homes can now once again sign-up to generate greener energy and reduce their energy bills through the Hampshire County Council supported solar panel scheme, Solar Together

Solar Together Hampshire is a group buying scheme offering high-quality solar panels and battery storage at a competitive price to Hampshire homeowners who come together to buy solar panels. The County Council is working with independent and trusted experts, iChoosr Ltd, to help residents make the switch to clean energy as cost effective and easy as possible.

From now until 27 September, homeowners can register online to become part of the group for free and without obligation www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/26082022solartogether>

County Council Leader calls on Government to do more to address cost of living crisis this autumn and winter

Hampshire County Council Leader, Councillor Rob Humby has today called for more crucial Government support for struggling families and communities this autumn and winter - who are facing rising fuel bills and potential hardship from the ongoing cost of living crisis

Councillor Humby said: "Local Government is based in the heart of communities and has the infrastructure in place, working alongside district and borough council partners, as well as the local community and voluntary sector, to ensure assistance gets to those in need. Over the past months, we have welcomed the additional national funding provided to support families and older people, for example, through distribution of the Household Support Grant and other funding streams, but much more is now needed.

It also includes the planned distribution of Warm Boxes and Fairshare food vouchers, as part of the national Household Support Grant Scheme, as well as the commissioning of a Hampshire-wide helpline, Hitting the Cold Spots

(<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots>), which provides assistance for those struggling to keep their homes warm.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/26082022costoflivingcrisis>

Food vouchers to support rising grocery costs

Food vouchers are now one part of the support to help Hampshire residents who may be struggling with the rising cost of living

The vouchers, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund, are being accessed across the county throughout August and September – distributed by Hampshire County Council to residents via the county's 11 district and borough councils.

Households eligible for Local Council Tax Support are entitled to a one-off £30 voucher, while a one-off £65 voucher will be made available to pensioners in receipt of Local Council Tax Support and Pension Credit or Guaranteed Credit. Those who are eligible for a voucher will be contacted directly by their local council.

There are currently over 20 pantries across Hampshire, all providing weekly access to a range of fresh, frozen and general food at a lower cost than at the supermarket. Residents can search for their local pantry on the [connect4communities website](#).

Vouchers for gas, electricity and water services are available via [Citizens Advice](#), whilst help with housing costs is available in exceptional circumstances and is being organised through Hampshire's District and Borough Councils.

For more information visit www.connect4communities.org or email: connect4communities@hants.gov.uk.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20220822foodvouchers>

Cllr David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC