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## Zero Carbon Solar Microgeneration



### UK manufactured renewables help deliver Code 3 homes....

Solartwin solar water heating panels are giving residents of a new green housing development in South Birmingham, England, lower energy bills thanks to their unique innovative heating system.

Bournville have now built more than half of their 167 new homes all of which achieve "code for sustainable homes level three" as part of a £25 million social housing project at Lower Shenley. Code three means that their energy performance is 25% better than UK building regulations require. A large proportion of this energy performance boost comes from the installation of Solartwin solar water heating panels. These are innovative polymer solar panels which will collect energy from the sun, thus saving on more expensive and polluting forms of heating. The solar panels are large enough to provide 30-70% of each home's hot water for washing and bathing in a year.

The solar hot water heating systems will operate even during power cuts using a unique "zero carbon design" system which has twice won awards from UK's Department of Trade and Industry. Zero carbon means that mains electricity is not used to run the solar pumps in the system. Instead solar electricity, which will also be generated on site, will power all of the panel's water pumping needs.

The solar panels come from Chester based solar water heating innovators Solar Twin Ltd, a renewable energy business who specialise in bringing zero carbon and innovative energy technologies to the mainstream market and in building project management.

All the properties are to be built with 'green' specifications and have spectacular sun spaces, such as two storey conservatories that insulate and provide warmth to the homes, as well as providing an extra room. Other innovative homes are earth sheltered and have high insulation levels, again, further minimising energy bills.

Hitesh Champaneri, of Bournville Village Trust said: "Bournville brings the George Cadbury philosophy of quality and social responsibility to all its regeneration projects and sustainability is part of his legacy. We first used solar panels in the early 1980's and in Lower Shenley we are continuing our interest in this innovative technology as a means of helping to arrest global warming. We selected the Solartwin technology because the zero carbon system delivers improved sustainability compared with other types of solar systems. Practically, the technology dispenses with the need to have a mains electrician there at installation."

Mr Dave Houston, Contracts Manager at Solar Twin Ltd commented: "I'm delighted that zero carbon solar water heating systems have been specified for Bournville in this and in earlier contracts. It is exciting to know that Solartwin installations are now also eligible for 50% grants under the UK Government's Low Carbon Building Programme, a change which was implemented in October.

We expect our business to grow dramatically as a consequence of this welcome regulatory change. This is because Solartwin users love the fact that the pumps we use are all solar powered. So they are not connected to the mains electric supply in order to work. Plus they don't need to schedule in antifreeze replacement visits every few years because we don't use any at all - we use water instead. Robust simplicity, minimal maintenance and ability to deliver large projects are a key part of our appeal".

**For more information on how we can assist you with grants for refurbishment and/or new build projects contact Dave Houston on: Tel - 01244 403 407, Mobile - 07887 871 758, email: [dave@solartwin.com](mailto:dave@solartwin.com)**