

## PV Grant Programme – Bob Weller



### Key Points

- solarcentury 'sunstation' consisting of Sanyo HIP-J54BE2 panels
- 2.16kWp installed
- Total installed cost: £13,230
- Grant value: £6,430
- Part of Daventry District Council's Solar Plan Scheme

Bob Weller has a long-standing interest in solar energy, dating back to a visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology about 20 years ago ([www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)). He was aware that the bottom of his garden received a lot of afternoon sun and thought he might install PV at some point.

Through his local authority, Daventry District Council, Bob had already had cavity wall and loft insulation installed to make his home more energy efficient, and was interested to hear about their Solar Plan Scheme, launched in 2002 (see Case Study PVI6D). After hearing the project manager from Daventry District Council talk about both their scheme and the DTI's PV Grant Scheme, Bob realised there was no reason not to go ahead.

The Council had already short-listed a number of installers, and Bob went to a presentation by all the companies involved before making his choice with solarcentury. A solar hot water system was installed at the same time. Ideally, both installers would have been on site in quick succession to allow for the scaffolding only to be hired and erected once, but staff problems at the solar hot water company meant that this didn't happen.

The 3.6m x 4.5m array is comprised of the latest Sanyo hybrid technology, which is more efficient in power generation than older panels. The installation was more complex than expected as a secure cable also had to be fitted. Three solarcentury installers carried out the work, which took from mid-morning one day to lunchtime the next.

Electricity generated is sold back to the grid via npower, who offer 10p/kWh for one year from installation. solarcentury dealt with the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and the energy company, though delays occurred getting paperwork back from npower and a meter installed. This in turn meant that Bob had to estimate the PV generation using his regular domestic meter.

Bob is very pleased with the performance of the panels, which during the first three months of operation, from September through to the beginning of December, generated a daily average of about 5kWh, reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted every day.

The panels can only be seen by passers-by using a public path down the side of the house and garden, and Bob's not received any negative comments. He continues to assist Daventry District Council promote solar technology, and has even been interviewed by the local radio station.

### Technical Information

Module	Sanyo HIP-J54BE2
Module type	Hybrid-crystalline
Inverter	SWR 1700E
Shading	Clear of shadows for at least 12 hours in midsummer

### Financial Information

Overall cost	£13,230
Grant value	£6,430

### Anticipated Performance

Estimated kWh per year	1620kWh
Estimated £ saved per year <sup>1</sup>	£97.20
Estimated kg CO2 saved per year <sup>2</sup>	696.6kg

<sup>1</sup> – assumes 6p/kWh    <sup>2</sup> – assumes 0.43kg/kWh

### Accredited Installer

solarcentury  
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SE1 7AB  
London  
Tel: 0800 9700 733  
Email: homes@solarcentury.co.uk

### PV Grant Scheme

Launched in March 2002, the first phase of the Department of Trade and Industry's major photovoltaic demonstration programme offers substantial grants towards the installation of solar electricity equipment. Grants are available of between 40 and 60% of the installation costs of a PV system to householders, businesses and social housing groups. Visit the website for further information.

Helpline: 0800 298 3978  
Email: solarpvgrants@est.co.uk  
Website: www.est.org.uk/solar

### Solar Plan Scheme

The local authority-led Northamptonshire Solar Plan scheme is funded by the Energy Saving Trust's Innovation programme. The scheme promotes both solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. For more information visit the web site [www.solarplan.info](http://www.solarplan.info) or call 0800 731 8976 or email [dmalone@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:dmalone@daventrydc.gov.uk)