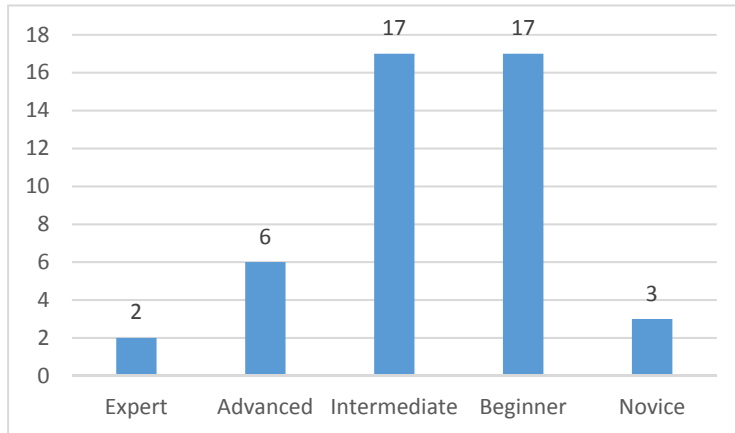


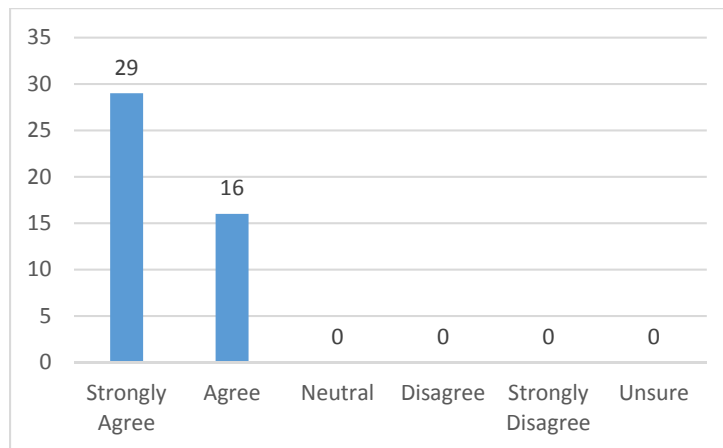


# Community Conversation– What is Summerland’s Future in Solar? Participant Survey Results

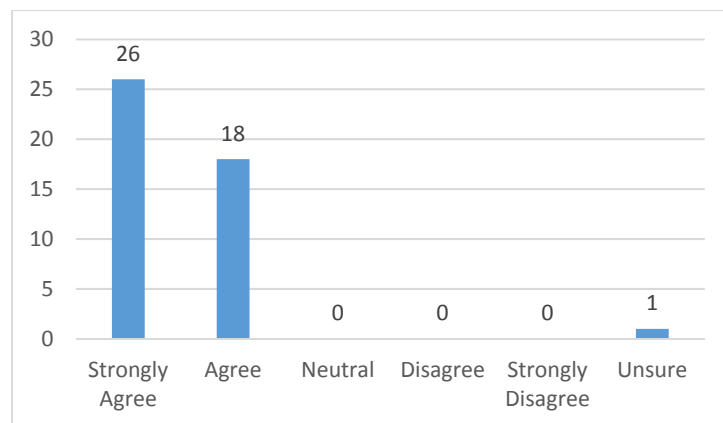
**My knowledge level regarding solar energy projects is**



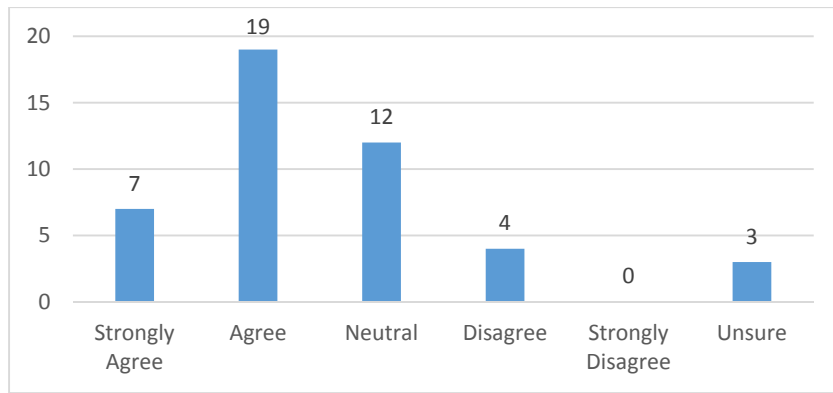
**Developing local renewable energy generation resources is important to me**



**Solar energy is important to Summerland’s energy future**



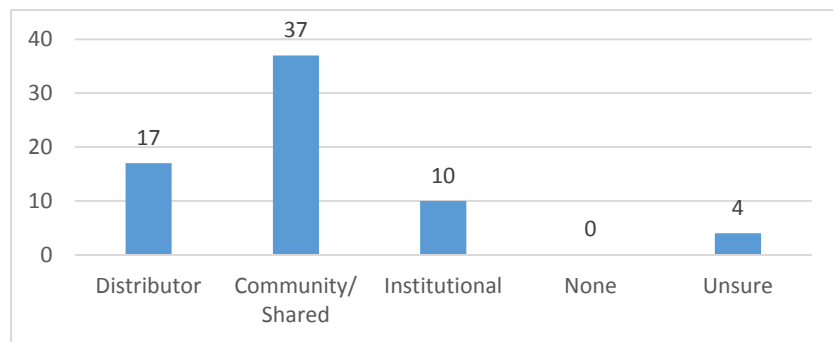
### I am willing to pay more for energy from a local renewable energy project



### If you agree, how much more per month would you be willing to pay?

- Max \$25
- \$25
- \$35
- \$40
- \$50 (x3 respondents)
- \$50-100
- \$200
- \$500
- \$1000
- 5-10%
- 10%
- 15% (x2 respondents)
- ? (x3 respondents)
- No idea but more than willing to invest in future

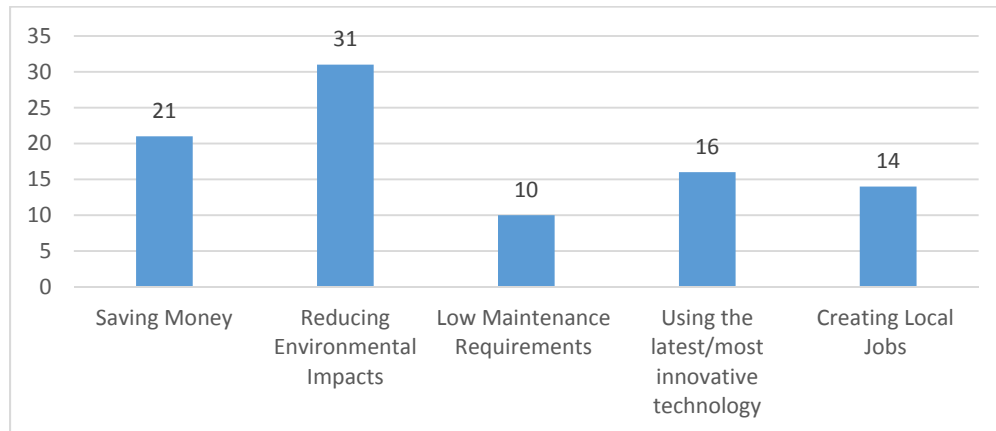
### The ownership model(s) that Summerland should pursue for a solar energy project is



### Comments:

- Net metering
- Private
- Combination of all
- To support District costs (Distributor)
- Later (Distributor)

**When investigating the feasibility of a renewable energy project, what are the most important factors to consider? (Choose up to two) \*note: some respondents selected more than two**



Other:

- Common Sense
- Long-term economics
- Effectively utilizing resources at hand
- Multi-faceted approach to alternative energy
- Renewable source
- Efficiency in single homes i.e. heat recovery from air conditioner to heat hot water
- Start with district buildings
- Distributed production & usage
- Low maintenance requirements might create jobs

**What do you see as the advantages of generating renewable energy within Summerland rather than purchasing from an outside source?**

- Some control over costs; reducing environmental impacts (site c dam); community solar garden take over maintenance etc. by knowledgeable people; located in prime spot (I lose direct sun 3.5 mon/year)
- More control over supply; Reduce reliance on 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources; Innovation and pioneering
- Long-term cost saving to community stays in community; self sufficient & not subject to price fluctuations from Fortis
- Reducing GHG; local control over energy creation; fuel sources will go up in the future – solar will not
- Community control; passing savings on to community; not overpaying for energy from Fortis
- Having a self sustaining energy source(s) would reduce overall costs and reduce dependency on the variables that outsourcing creates
- Lower cost to consumers; potential energy sale to others
- It might lower energy costs
- Less power loss; keep money local
- Controlling the source
- Being part of the utility corp
- Making sure there is adequate power source in future; create local autonomy over power
- Local control; retain benefits

- All the advantages remain within the community if there are advantages
- It's local; less polluting; more control
- Overall savings to community
- Becoming self sufficient; saving money
- Image
- Improving the electrical sustainability for residents by not investing in huge hydroelectric high cost dams
- Local jobs; line loss; public awareness; control rate volatility
- Money savings; creating more local jobs
- We can
- Improving environment
- If Summerland can generate its own power source for and with the community, that is a great benefit
- Enhance the Summerland image – market it along with the fruits, beach, and fine weather
- Resilience; GHG reduction
- More benefit to the community
- Buy local
- We are doing it ourselves; can be proud of the impact we make/contribution to the environment; cut out the middle man = reduce costs for all
- Independence; preserve environment; tourism & community rep
- Distributed production
- Control over prices
- Consistent cost
- Allows control over future costs
- Security; lower line losses; environmental benefits
- Greater efficiency; long-term sustainability; lower use of fossil fuels; reduce carbon emissions
- More environmentally conscious; less energy loss generating close to homes
- Self-reliance; lower footprints and meet our goals (GHG emissions)

#### **What do you see as the risks or downfalls of generating renewable energy within Summerland?**

- Not certain – knowledge base limited. So far only see positives
- Won't be able to produce enough – initially – to meet the demand of the municipality, through solar alone
- Cost, higher taxes
- Environmental damage; cost (higher); spend too much time “reinventing the wheel”
- Overcommitting; failing to foresee issues and making all pay for it later; cheaping out
- Maintenance costs and keeping up to the latest technologies
- Inadequate assessment & handling of project details; incompetent administration & operating of generation facilities
- Solar farms using up agricultural land or wildlife habitat
- Land space required
- Researching the right solution
- Does Summerland have enough control on power sales?
- Costs of startup
- No risks, many benefits

- Project costs; time to see a return on investment
- Technology is moving so fast that the project may be much more profitable in 1-5 years
- Not enough interest by the community in climate change over the years
- Finding suitable buildings; land for large scale with appropriate service sizing
- Costs unknown
- Age of many seniors
- Possible cost, but technology could reduce the expense
- None (x3 respondents)
- Cost
- Late adopters – listen and address their concerns
- Objectors and ‘NIMBYS’; community acceptance
- Not a thing
- No opinion
- No risk or downfalls
- Regulation; dependency on Fortis for needs beyond local government capacity
- Producing too much power in non-peak demand time and not enough in winter so Fortis will charge more for winter power
- Requires administration and maintenance but should be cost effective in long run
- Upfront costs

**Do you have any questions about solar energy or solar energy projects that you’d like us to provide more information on?**

- Love to learn more about community solar gardens
- Rent-a-roof options; encouraging institutions (e.g. schools to be more self sufficient); solar roadways [www.solarroadways.com](http://www.solarroadways.com) put these tiles on carports etc.
- Rebates to homeowner if they purchase solar panels for their home – similar to energy star appliances
- No, info session was VERY informative
- Worldwide, which ones are successful? And by successful, I mean economically viable and paying for itself
- When will the incentives for individual projects be available?
- Detailed description of an estimated cost of the three different panel installations and operation
- Yes
- I can read!
- Is it feasible to generate solar power in the winter when energy demand is at its highest?
- Location
- I can read it online
- No/not at this time (x8 respondents)
- Cost of connecting; private arrays
- Will join list
- Waiting for new program in spring to understand costs for residential solar
- Reduce or remove prohibitive fees currently required – is this possible?

**Do you have any concerns about solar energy or solar energy projects in Summerland?**

- No (x12 respondents)

- Where would a solar array be sited? Could it be so big as to be an eyesore?
- Siting of project
- Location
- Proceeding without proper studies and evaluation of available technologies, location, overall costs, and kWh costs to customers
- Not to be placed in obvious position; put on land that is unusable
- That it'll cost too much
- Keep jobs in the Okanagan. No need to outsource to out of area consultants and contractors
- Get going as soon as possible
- I think it is a great idea
- Appropriate land use; watch our footprint
- Everyone should be able to participate
- No concerns – just encouragement
- Lack of sun in winter
- Where to put them; who pays?

**What aspects of solar energy and the potential energy projects in Summerland do you find the most interesting/intriguing?**

- Roger from Swiss Solar Tech was at our table – reusing heat to heat hot water tank, pools, etc. (local pool); reducing our impact in environment (clearings for powerlines, dams, pipelines, etc.); Love the fact that close source eliminates losses from distance
- Would show we are a progressive community interested in protecting and maintaining our environment
- The fact that we are able to create sufficient solar energy even with our cloudy winters
- The possibility of separating ourselves from the herd of all the other BC communities suckling from the teats of Fortis and the BC government
- The potential to reduce dependency on outside resources; eco-tourism
- Could be a trend setter in the region
- Community/shared project
- Carbon footprint reduced; energy of the future
- Saving \$; saving environment; getting people together
- That it can contribute to Summerland's self reliance; won't have to be the mercy of Fortis
- Self-sustaining
- Opportunity to educate public; local production of energy; local jobs
- That we might actually go ahead with the project
- Reducing imprint of carbon based power
- That Summerland can be a leader in the Okanagan for Solar Energy
- Community investment – spirit!
- Storage is important to bring down peak costs (store for Dec from higher months)
- Community solar garden project
- How it contributes to saving our environment and how it can help residents save money; I would love a self-sustaining community
- Getting on with getting on!
- I think solar has a future; look forward to learning more
- Any solar potential

- A new program to simplify and reduce costs for installation of residential solar
- Lower GHG; longevity; trendy
- All of it
- Long-term sustainable technology
- Eventual credit added to bills
- Potential cost savings & lowering environmental footprints

**Please share any additional comments you would like to make:**

- \*Most important\* education on reduction and mindful uses of power
- Please look into solar roadways too. Although embryotic, the potential to utilize carparks & pathways is great
- Excellent presentation to community but needed larger venue and more notice to citizens; suggest Facebook – Summerland Locals Helping Locals
- I said I disagreed with paying more for renewable energy, however, I would be willing to invest up front for future long term savings
- I am a new resident; looking forward to Summerland being innovative with the city
- In addition to solar energy, water power production should be investigated with its generally low cost kWh, uninterrupted availability, non-polluting and quiet renewable energy production
- Figure out a way of alerting residents when utility is approaching peak consumption
- Peak shaving is the first step, before solar
- Reinvestigate heat well by Giants Head
- Very interesting project
- Keep up the good work!
- I hope the project goes forward
- Great event – thanks
- This is excellent! I love how proactive our Council/city is about the environment
- I want to limit peak use fees to current level; new construction requires footprint assessment; prefer new construction required to be carbon neutral
- Let's make a solar garden happen!
- Need diversity and ways to counter the duck curve
- I hope to see progress on this project proceed in a timely manner

**Comments received by email after the event**

- It was a great success
- I am very stoked!
- Great event last night. Good work. Keep those photons flowing.
- Congratulations for implementing a "Very Successful" public solar conversation last evening. We heard nothing but positive comments from the overflow crowd throughout the event. Everyone I spoke with was supportive and appreciative.
- That was an excellent presentation made by you and the other contributors at last evenings workshop. I hope you continue with the enthusiasm shown at the meeting and with the unexpectedly large attendance in forming some kind of an association in which people will put their money where their mouths are, so to speak.
- Great solar presentation
- Your event went well and was informative