



## Community Conversation– What is Summerland’s Future in Solar? Table Conversation Notes

Following presentations regarding solar energy and possible models Summerland could pursue for an energy generation project, participants broke out into table groups to discuss the question “What is Summerland’s future in solar?” with the following supplementary questions being offered to keep conversation flowing: “What are the community’s responsibilities when it comes to energy sourcing? What about the District’s?” and “Does a solar energy project ‘fit’ in Summerland? How/not?”. A designated note-taker at each table captured the comments made in those discussions, and those notes are transcribed below.

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### Distributed in community

- Stays w/house
- Increase house value?
- Add a panel/year
- Could do both

### Kimberley

- \$5 Million for megawatt
- \$1.5 Million today
- Don’t use wooden structures
- Use steel ground screw, no need to level
- If need to renew, remove & heal
- Need to keep panels clean e.g. “swiffer”

### What about zoning? Prairie Valley West?

- Will drop to \$1 Million per megawatt

### Not economic to use viable farm land

- Makes sense on land owned by municipality

### Collaborate

### Mixed model

### Panels are 30-40% of cost

- Permitting, engineering are rest of cost

### Lose ability of trackers above 20% slope

### Single axis more efficient/cost effective

### At the end of 50 years – 85% efficient

What about new technology? Will new ones be replaced? Or just add?

- Increases expected to be incremental
  - Year to 1.5 years to implement
  - Batteries are the size of a refrigerator
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Who finances the bigger projects?

Collective project benefit to new arrivals, as well as multi-family dwelling

Some kind of project to get a start would be good; might be a buy in to prove it's worth it long term

“Green Bonds”

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Solar Community Garden – fair. Everyone can participate if wants/feasible

Solar Community Garden

Solar Community Garden + Summerland District also purchasing array & distributing

- Storage in the future, however Summerland able to use all now
- City to carry (or loan) to lower income residents/businesses
- Place restrictions on new developments

Solar Community Garden + Independents

- Everyone can participate (as long as you are member for energy)
- Roof space on churches
- Stratas = solar garden
- Private farmers
- Rent-a-roof

Agree with comments above; multiple models, independents use what they can and then put it back to grid

New developments have solar built in

City has to make our bylaws alternate energy friendly

Winter campaign to “teach” residents how to conserve power, especially during peak periods

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Solar is sexy, but wintertime peak shaving is far more important.

How many hectares of land would be sacrificed to achieve significant solar input to Summerland's grid?

Community is preferred.

Control admin, fair, everyone has access, lots of choice.

People that don't participate also get benefits over time.

Will attract the early adopters.

Project is scalable.

City budgets likely affected – staff, infrastructure, etc.

The city could also be an investor, since they use power as well. City likely will have to upgrade power utility anyhow, as it grows.

We will never have enough panels.

Community is plan A, distribution is plan B; we could have more than one arrangement.

Churches and strata developments could provide roof space.

Can the city loan money to clients, who pay loan back via utility bills over time

Maintain private option

By law, new construction should be required to be “alternate energy friendly”

Possible site for community solar garden; the proposed golf course lands in Prairie Valley. South facing, low agricultural value.

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### Community's Responsibilities

- Upgrading homes, turning off lights, etc.
- Land use disputes? ALR
- Agricultural land reserve as a “farm”?
  - What are available zones?
  - Can we use “unusable” land? Red zone
- Tax payers
- Advantages of having a combination of projects (community/shared & institutional)

### District Responsibilities

- Providing land – land out towards sump, Cartwright Mtn
- Start smaller, scale up once revenue backing
- Meet the number of panels on District buildings, invest same amount as people
- Provide intellectual expertise to set up panels, some guidance for average joe

### How does it fit?

- District managing
  - Capital costs
  - Add to Summerland utilities, 7-10 years
- Taxpayers, receive subsidy based on # of panels
- Provide jobs – maintaining panels in utility

- Distributed power, savings in line loss
- Lowering 11 month demand
- We want to be able to store power, don't want to put back power
- Like both shared & distributor models (aspect of both)
- More expensive, risky to install on your home
- Summerland best payback spring
- Prefer Nelson model
- Fees are worst for charging individual panels in Summerland

#### Downsides

- Not keen on a visible farm from road, put it somewhat hidden
- Putting up \$500 up front not economically feasible for everyone if shared
- High tariffs on imported panels, protection for Canadian panels

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Support Summerland doing its own project – understands it is less complicated for Summerland. Has concerns about cost. Would like to see European model of cost savings. Concerns about regulation.

Liked the Nelson model.

Likes community sharing in establishing a solar system

Mentioned several times: looked at cost of solar 10 years ago on our house but decided the cost was prohibitive

Prefers to see Summerland do distribution model. Investment would be better – scale makes it cheaper use existing info

Concerns about the cost of transmission – would perhaps be uneconomical – so maybe have one installation to increase; proceed with caution re: **cost**

Likes that the amount of money that is put into the community model goes into individual's portions

Seems more economical to have larger field than individual homes

Confusion about how the distributor model and how it would benefit

Would the distributor model attract more grants?

Can Summerland do both distribution and the community model?

Tracking system would be better as it would produce more power

Experience with solar convinced me that solar is the way.

Who will make the analysis of costs/benefits? Should come before the decision is made by Council

Is Summerland goes the community route and the new owner doesn't want the solar right, can you sell it?

Huge opportunity – people who wanted to do solar individually

See the Community/distributor system as VERY POSITIVE!!

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No brainer

Fits well with Summerland experience

Good investment

Idea of small community self-sustaining positive idea

Question – subsidizing power?

What 2500 sq feet solar power?

Community project v. private

- Increasing value of property?

Subsidies for solar? Incentives

Responsibilities? Financial / education support / intellectual support / seminars

Upcharge – should be incentive to city storage?

Breakdown – cost – how many years

Look at business plan for Nelson