

Christmas Lights

Following discussion of this paper the recommendation is to no longer pursue solar powered Christmas lights.

From a clerks' forum page:

This question was posed in October last year. I suspect nothing much has changed since. After reading this, I don't think I would be recommending either of the options Alex or Kim suggested but you make the decisions!

Does anyone have any experience of good solar lights? We have a Christmas tree in our recreation field, but no power connection. In the past we have had solar lights which have worked well, but the wires have been chewed by deer or dogs. We are looking for something fairly robust.

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Hi Julie I don't know the answer I am afraid, but we are in a similar position and are looking out for similar solar lights. I will keep an eye out for responses to this too. Best wishes Susan

I went to the Blachere warehouse to look at their Christmas lights stock and asked this question. They said that they have trialed solar lights as they are always being asked for these and there is a demand, however, they have found that they currently have a poor performance for this country (work well in the South of France) and therefore they would not recommend them. They did say the LED displays are cost effective and offer value for money as well as being light on energy use. They are keeping tabs on technology innovations and performance so maybe it will change in the future. If you give Blachere a call, they are happy to discuss.

I spoke to Blanchere at the National Conference last week and they advised me that their solar lights were not suitable, that is why I reached out to the forum. I was hoping someone might have found another good source. Our difficulty is that there is no source of power in the recreation field.

Elsewhere on the forum there was a suggestion of using a motorhome battery where no power supply is possible. Does that sounds feasible?

In Oundle, we had a big town-wide display of lights. Some we had our own power supply to, some we had agreements with individuals and businesses along the route to plug in with them. We know from previous years approx.. how many kilowatt hours we will need, so would a reimbursement scheme be possible? That would definitely avoid our year-round standing charges. (In Wilton, we had a power sharing agreement with the bowls club for a fountain so these things are possible).

It would be good to decide before signing up a new contract (September) for the power supply. So, what do you want to do next?

LH 25.6.25