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Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics  
Unit 13, Ball Mill Top Business Park  
Grimley, Worcestershire WR2 6LS  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 1905 640 400  
E-mail: [solargardukinfo@saint-gobain.com](mailto:solargardukinfo@saint-gobain.com)  
[www.solargard.co.uk](http://www.solargard.co.uk)

# Buildingtalk



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## Solar Gard's survey ahead of CRC Energy Scheme

A **Solar Gard** product story

Edited by the Buildingtalk editorial team Apr 7, 2010

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**A survey carried out on behalf of Solar Gard claims UK firms are unprepared for the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.**

The CRC Scheme is the UK's mandatory climate change and **energy saving** initiative, but is set for a rocky start when it launches, according to the Solar Gard research.

It is central to the UK's strategy for improving **energy efficiency** and reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008.

Around 5,000 organisations are expected to qualify for the scheme this year and all must comply legally with the scheme or face financial and other penalties.

A recent survey of senior managers responsible for **energy management** at many of the UK's biggest energy users, highlights a significant degree of ignorance, apathy and confusion about the scheme.

The survey was originally undertaken for Solar Gard in order understand the attitudes of the UK's energy users towards reducing their carbon footprint.

More than half of energy users likely to be affected by the scheme, do not even realise that they will be affected and that they are legally required to register.

If they do not register by the deadline 30 September, they face an immediate fine of GBP5,000 and an additional daily fine of GBP500.

A third of those surveyed who's organisation qualifies for the scheme did not know what their annual energy usage was.

Nearly half of those who know that they qualify for the scheme do not know when they are supposed to register.

The survey highlighted that more than a quarter of the UK's energy users who qualify for the scheme do not have a carbon footprint reduction strategy in place.

Almost every organisation admitted they could do more to reduce their carbon footprint.

Only five per cent could correctly give the official price the scheme had placed on a one ton CO2 allowance.

The correct answer being GBP12.

The survey was carried out by research company Vanson Bourne.

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The survey interviewed senior facility managers responsible for power management at 100 of the UK's largest public and private sector organisations, most of which are likely to qualify for the CRC Scheme.

Solar Gard was looking to use data from the survey to understand the attitudes of the UK's energy users towards reducing their carbon footprint.

The survey revealed some of the most common strategies being used by large organisations to reduce energy usage; turning off lights and IT equipment to opening windows rather than using fans or **air conditioning**.

The least common approach listed was **solar control** window film that can reject **solar energy** from the sun and help keep a building cool, reducing the need for air conditioning.

Although Solar Control window film can cut a building's cooling load by 30 per cent, and reduce the energy required to air condition the building, less than a quarter of organisations surveyed have installed it.

The survey showed that of the majority that relied on air conditioning to cool their buildings, more than half would still open a window to cool down on a hot day.

This suggests that the air conditioning was not working effectively against the solar heat gained by the building.

For the duration of the registration period of the CRC Scheme, April 1-September 30, Solar Gard is offering free glazing energy analysis, a first step in measuring precisely the reduction in solar heat gain through the installation of solar control window film along with the subsequent reduction in carbon emissions required to power the air conditioning.

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