

FEDERAL ENERGY SAVING MEASURES

Solar Energy (PV) Systems

FEDERAL:

The *Solar Credits* scheme provides rebates of up to \$7500 for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems up to a size of 1.5kW on homes, businesses and community use buildings. Visit

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/renewable-target/need-ret/solar-credits-faq.aspx> for more information.

STATE:

WA: On May 27, 2010, the Western Australian Government announced the Residential Net Feed-in Tariff Scheme which commenced on August 1, 2010. Under the Scheme participants are paid a rate of 40 c/kWh for net electricity exported to the mains grid; in addition to any schemes offered by electricity retailers.

Residential Net Feed-in Tariff Scheme participants will receive the premium rate for 10 years. Solar power systems will be limited in size to 5kW for Synergy customers and 10kW per phase (30kW in total) for Horizon Power customers.

The feed in tariff is in addition to the price paid by Synergy and Horizon Power under the Renewable Energy Buyback Scheme (REBS). The rate offered under Synergy's REBS changed to 7c/kWh on 1 August 2010 and will be subject to annual reviews.

For more information visit http://www.clean.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/re_feed-in_tariff_FAQs.asp

WA LOCAL:

Residents living in Councils participating in the *Switch your thinking!* program can also access further rebates and special offers from sponsor companies associated with the program (in addition to any Federal and State Government incentives) – visit www.switchyourthinking.com for more information, or call Julie McMinn on 08 9397 3208.

NSW: The NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme commenced on 1 January 2010 and will operate for 7 years.

The Scheme will be reviewed in 2012 by the Minister for Energy, or when the installed capacity of renewable energy generators participating in the Scheme reaches 50 megawatts, whichever occurs first.

The Scheme provides support to people who produce renewable energy through eligible roof-top solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and wind turbines connected to the grid.

New South Wales customers benefit from the most generous tariff rate in Australia. The Scheme was designed so customers who already had systems installed, that met the new Scheme eligibility requirements, could also join up and be rewarded with the generous gross tariff rate of 60 cents per kilowatt hour.

For more information visit

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy/sustainable/renewable/solar/solar-scheme

QLD: The Queensland Government Solar Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) pays eligible households and other small customers for the surplus electricity generated from solar photovoltaic (PV) panel systems, which is exported to the Queensland electricity grid.

Customers participating in the Scheme will be paid 44 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for surplus electricity fed into the grid - more than double the current general domestic use tariff of 21.35c/kWh (Tariff 11 inc GST as at 1 July 2010). For more information visit www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/solar_bonus_scheme.cfm

ACT: The ACT Feed-in Tariff Scheme is based on gross generation, so you are paid for each unit of electricity that you generate

Stage 1 of the Scheme aimed at householders and small business commenced on 1 March 2009.

The Scheme is available to all ACT electricity customers (except non-educational Government agencies) with generation facilities of no greater capacity than 30kW. All schools and educational institutions, both public and private, are eligible to access the Scheme. If you are renting, you will need the permission of the property owner before you can install renewable generation equipment

Systems connected between 1 March 2009 and 30 June 2010 will receive a Premium Price of 50.05 cents per kWh generated, for systems up to 10kW, and 40.04 cents per kWh for systems between 10kW and 30kW. From 1 July 2010 until 30 June 2011, the Premium Price will be 45.7c per kWh for all systems up to 30kW.

The Premium Price is set annually. However, when you enter into an arrangement with your electricity supplier you are guaranteed payment of the Premium Price prevailing at that time for the full 20 years of your agreement.

More general inquiries about the ACT Feed-in Tariff Scheme or legislation may be directed to the ACT Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water via Canberra Connect on **13 22 81** or for more information visit: www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/187904/FiTFactSheet.pdf

VIC: Victoria's premium feed-in tariff offers Victorians with small-scale solar PV systems of up to 5kW (kilowatts) in size a guaranteed minimum credit of at least 60 cents per kWh (kilowatt hour) for excess electricity fed back into the grid at any time of the day or year.

The premium solar feed-in tariff started on 1 November 2009 and is available to customers signed up under the scheme for the next 15 years. The scheme will be capped at a total capacity of 100 megawatts of solar power across the state, which means once this limit is reached new customers will not be able to sign up.

All Victorian electricity retailers with more than 5,000 customers must offer a premium feed-in tariff for solar. But retailers may offer different packages or terms and conditions. Check the details of any individual offers before signing up.

For more information visit <http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/energy/energy-policy/greenhouse-challenge/feed-in-tariffs>

SA: SA was the first state to introduce a solar feed-in law in Australia and pays a premium guaranteed tariff of 44 cents per unit of electricity (kilowatt-hour, kWh), to households and small customers who feed solar electricity into the grid.

The law, which sits within the *Electricity Act 1996*, came into effect on 1 July 2008 and will extend for 20 years.

10MW Review

On the 31st of August 2010, the Premier and Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change, the Hon Mike Rann, announced the Government's decision to make a number of changes to the scheme as a result of the review.

The intended changes to the scheme aim to increase the benefits to solar customers while limiting the total cost of the scheme to all customers in the state.

At a glance, the Government has decided to:

- increase the bonus, from 44 cents to 54 cents per kilowatt hour;
- obligate retailers who choose to contract with solar customers to pay a minimum rate for the power that they receive from the owners of solar panels;
- limit eligibility for payment of the bonus to the first 45 kilowatt hours exported to the grid per day;
- limit eligibility to one generator per customer or entity;
- specifically exclude generators operated primarily for the purpose of generating a profit from the scheme; and
- close the scheme to new connections when an installed capacity of 60MW is reached.

The changes will not result in any diminished benefit for existing solar customers. However, intending purchasers of solar systems need to be aware that, subject to the

passing of the legislation, all customers that receive permission to connect for their solar system from ETSA Utilities after the announcement on the 31st of August 2010 will be subject to the new eligibility criteria.

For more information visit www.climatechange.sa.gov.au/index.php?page=sa-s-solar-feed-in-scheme

TAS The current feed in tariff rate for Tasmania solar power production is 20cents per kWh but there have been moves to introduce a gross feed in tariff in the state soon.