



Generating solar electricity—solar power panels

Over 22 000 Queensland homes have already done the bright thing by installing solar panels on their roofs. The electricity generated through the panels is used to power electric appliances in homes—and if the appropriate wiring is in place, any electricity not used can be fed into the electricity grid.

Using solar power can reduce electricity costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions, as the electricity generated through the panels is clean, green energy from the sun.

Not only will installing solar panels on your home save you money on your energy bills, it will also help build a virtual solar power station for Queensland. Street by street, we're working together to double Queensland's use of solar energy in five years.

How do solar panels work?

Solar panels (known as solar photovoltaic panels or solar PV) capture the sun's rays and convert the sunlight into electricity.

Sunlight charges electrons in the panels—then the energised electrons move through the panels and flow into a wire, creating an electrical current.

An inverter changes the electricity to a current that's suitable to use on household appliances and for export to the electricity grid.

Homes and businesses that use a net electricity meter can export their excess electricity to the grid and participate in the Solar Bonus Scheme.

What is the Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme?

The Queensland Government's Solar Bonus Scheme pays households and other small customers for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar panels that is exported to the Queensland electricity grid. Homes with net electricity metering are eligible to participate in the scheme. Net metering measures energy exported to the grid after household consumption, whereas gross metering measures everything that the system generates.

The scheme is designed to make solar power more affordable for Queenslanders, stimulate the solar power industry and encourage energy efficiency. For more information, visit www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au

What are Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)?

RECs are a form of currency that can be earned when households install renewable energy equipment such as solar panels. Once created, RECs can be traded, purchased or sold, making a solar system installation cheaper for the owner.

Various companies or government bodies may be interested in buying RECs or buying the right to create them. Some solar power system retailers may offer cash for RECs while others may offer discounts on products. For example, when installing solar systems, it's common for owners to transfer the right to create RECs to their solar power system retailer in return for a discount on the upfront costs.



For further information about RECs and Solar Credits that will help lower the upfront cost of installing a solar power system, visit the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator website www.orer.gov.au

How do I get solar power panels on my home?

Customers wishing to install solar panels will need to contact a solar power system retailer. Your chosen retailer will let you know what type of system is appropriate for your home or business, and organise installation. To find a retailer, search for 'solar power system' in the Yellow Pages or an online search engine.

More information

For more information about solar power systems, the Solar Bonus Scheme or solar initiatives in Queensland, visit www.qld.gov.au or call 13 GET SOLAR (13 438 76527).