

Information in this document has been put together with the assistance of members of the Eco Centre and L.I.V.E.

www.ecocentre.com

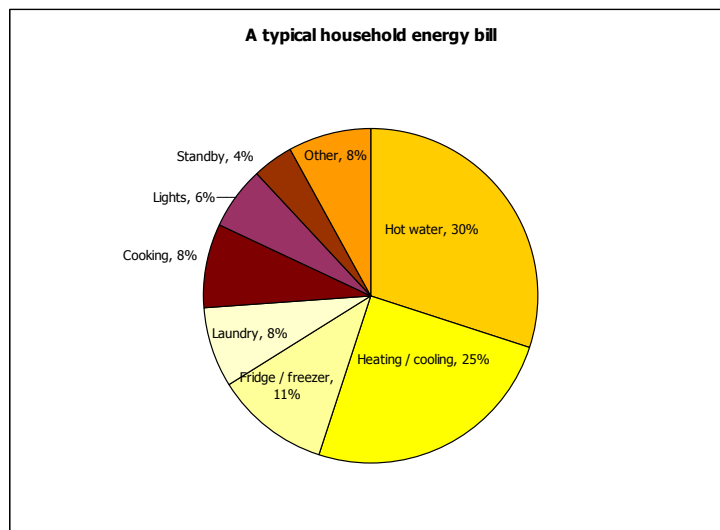
www.live.org.au

Solar Electricity and Solar Hot Water Service Packages for people living in the Port Phillip Neighbourhood March 2009

Why act now?

Solar electricity and solar hot water provide a way in which communities can reduce their gas and electricity usage and costs. Considerable saving can be achieved by converting to solar electricity and/ or solar hot water and importantly make an appreciable impact on our greenhouse gas emissions.

Householders in the Port Phillip neighbourhood can take part in offers being put together by several companies providing deals for solar neighbourhood supply and installation of photovoltaic panel systems and/or solar hot water systems. These deals are time limited to take advantage of the current \$8000 Federal Government rebate ending in June 2009. **Other deals are being developed for after that date.**

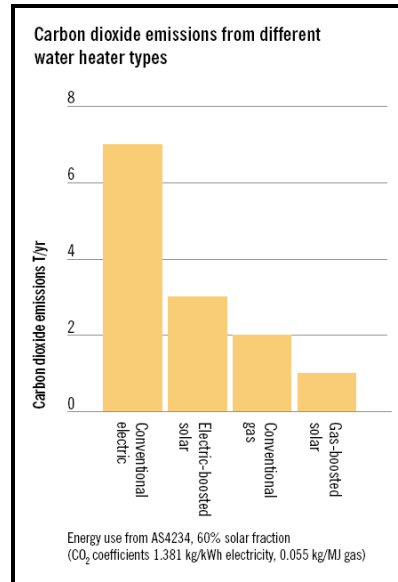


Source: CSIRO, accessed: December 2008

The home has the highest thermal requirements of any sector. The pie chart above shows the way in which householders use their energy with the greatest portion of household use going into water heating and heating and cooling.

Householders taking up these offers and converting to PV panels for electricity and solar panels for hot water can save as much as 20% of electricity usage by installing a 1 kw PV panel system.

Additional savings can be made by converting your hot water system to solar.



With current government rebates and incentives from the state and federal government and favourable deals on offer, householders can substantially reduce the pay back period by converting to solar now.

System costs and CO₂ emissions savings for solar electricity and solar hot water systems

Details	Photovoltaic solar panels	Solar hot water
System Specifications	1 Kilowatt photovoltaic system (6 solar panels), connected to the grid	Solar hot water (instant gas boosted) Stainless steel tank 2 solar panels Heat pump costs not included
Greenhouse CO₂ Savings	1.2 tonnes (approximately)	5.0 tonnes when replacing electric hot water with solar hot water (instant gas boosted) 1.0 tonnes when replacing gas hot water with solar hot water (instant gas boosted)
Full system cost	\$10,850 (plus \$400-\$500 if new electricity meter required)	Say \$6000 (but cheaper with solar neighbourhood bulk purchase)
Rebate	Federal rebate \$8,000 (means tested to \$100k per couple)	Federal rebate \$1,600 on conversion of electric to solar hot water State rebate \$900-\$1,500 on conversion of gas/LPG and older electric/solar systems to solar hot water
Net Cost	\$2,850-\$3,350	\$4400.00
Annual Savings- Depends on usage	\$200-\$250 (approximately 25% of cost) 62 cents per kWh for excess power sold back to the grid	\$500 (approximately 88% of hot water costs)
Payback Period	6-7 years at current electricity prices	8-9 years
RECs and VEECs Selling RECS will further reduce payback period	17 RECs @ \$40 = \$680	Federal RECs 35 @ \$40 = \$1400 plus State REECs (from gas) 9 @ \$10 = \$90 State VEECs (from electrical) 52@10=\$ 520
<i>Note: All figures based on Melbourne metropolitan installations and climate conditions</i>		

More on Incentives and Rebates

The federal and state governments are offering incentives to encourage conversion to solar. Incentives include rebates and Renewable Energy Certificates RECS (Federal) or VEECS (State). RECS are a market based system of selling carbon credits. The current government proposals for on-selling these certificates provides ethical dilemmas for many with people choosing to keep rather than sell the certificates.

Below is a list of rebates and RECS applying in the Melbourne Metropolitan area currently (March 2009) for all conversions applying to Melbourne Metropolitan area:

Solar Power

The federal government \$8,000 Solar Homes and Communities rebate is available to homeowners installing 1 kilowatt solar (6 panels) power systems on their principal place of residence. To be eligible, a \$100,000 net taxable income limit applies to you and your spouse.

This rebate is only available until the end of June 2009 and requires applications to be assessed and lodged prior to that date. After June the Federal Government is introducing a non means tested new scheme which will be assessed differently and will probably have a lower level of input from the government of around \$4000 per installation.

Householders are also eligible for around 17-18 Renewable Energy Certificates for the 1 kw systems on offer. Their value changes periodically with current value of say \$40 giving a value of around \$680. You need to check on whether or not the cost of the RECs has been included in the deal on offer.

The number of RECs for the system you are installing varies according to the efficiency of the system and overall carbon saving. This is reflected in the much higher RECS applying to solar hot water against solar panels.

Changes are also underway on the amount of the feed in tariff on offer. This is the amount that the system can earn when it generates more power in a day than it needs. 1kw systems typically only generate around 20% of the average household power needs over the course of a year. However there will be times when you are getting more than you can use. When this happens you will be paid at 62c per kWh for the power you are generating.

Solar Hot Water

The rebates and offsets applicable to your solar hot water installation differ depending on whether you are replacing an existing gas or electric hot water system.

If you are replacing an **existing gas hot water system** with a solar boosted unit (2 panels) or a heat pump, you may be eligible for:

- \$1,500 point of sale discount under the terms of Sustainability Victoria's Metropolitan Solar Hot Water Rebate.

- \$1,400 point of sale discount for 35 renewable energy credits (RECs).
- \$90 point of sale discount for 9 Victorian Energy Efficiency Credits (VEECs).

If you are replacing an **existing electric hot water system** with a gas-boosted unit or a heat pump, you may be eligible for:

- \$1,600 Federal Solar Hot Water rebate, which is claimed following installation.
- \$1,200 point of sale discount for 30 RECs (Renewable Energy Certificate).
- \$540 point of sale discount for 52 VEECs (Victorian Energy Certificate)
- \$200 rebate towards the costs of installing new gas lines (Victorian subsidy).

Making your selection between a gas boosted solar system or a heat pump may depend on the availability of gas and a suitable north facing site for the 2 panels required to operate a gas boosted system.

For more information

Victorian Government general Information - www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au and www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au and then go to “households” and then “rebates” on this website

Federal government: <http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/index.html>
<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/pv/index.html>

Current offers available immediately

Offer 1: A 1KW solar panel system supplied and installed by Eco-Kinetics at a cost of \$2830. Estimated electricity saving 20% pa. (Note RECS have not been taken up in this deal).

This is for households with a combined taxable income of less than \$100,000 (to gain the Federal Government rebate). Households will need to sign up by 25th March 2009 to benefit from the bulk deal with this group.

Eco-Kinetics works with local councils to provide bulk deals to local communities. In this case householders in the Port Phillip neighbourhood will be combining with residents from the City of Yarra providing us with the opportunity to get the following:

- Initial assessment of suitability of your home and quote for any extra costs
- 6 Co-energy 170 w mono-crystalline panels
- Sunny Boy Inverter (SB1100)
- full installed with plumber and electrician
- See warranties on web site

For full details of this proposal and more information:

Eco-Kinetics Frequently Asked Questions:
<http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/environment/Solar.asp>

Local contact :
 Pat Jessen: 9531-8695 or patjessen@optusnet.com.au

Offer 2: A combined 1 kilowatt solar power and solar hot water provided by Rezeko For \$4,999. Estimated electricity saving 50% pa. (note RECS have been taken up in this deal)

Rezeko also has a stand alone offer for solar panels and is developing a similar stand alone offer for solar hot water systems. This information is/will be available on the web site under Eko Energy Solar Eko Energy Hot Water.

Rezeko works mainly with community groups and started in the Black Rock area of Bayside. This is their 3rd neighbourhood project in the Bayside area and the 2nd in the Port Phillip area. Rezeko have extended the neighbourhood for this deal to include householders in the Port Phillip area.

The Bayside scheme is currently their only PV Panel electricity scheme which does not require the householder to pay the \$8000 up front (assisted by Sustainable Melbourne). This deal applies to households with a combined income of less than \$100,000 (to gain the Federal Government rebate). Households will need to sign up by the end of March 2009 to benefit from the bulk deal with this group.

In this case householders in the Port Phillip neighbourhood will have the opportunity to get the following:

- Initial assessment of suitability of your house and quote for any extra costs.
- 6 Co-energy 170 w mono-crystalline panels
- Sunny Boy Inverter (SB1100)
- Conergy 250 Litre Solar Hot Water Split System (Open)
- Conergy Power Tracker for monitoring your home energy usage
- Fully installed with plumber and electrician.
- See warranties and guarantees on Rezeko web site

For more information:

Rezeko frequently asked questions: <http://www.rezeko.com/>
or information on solar hot water: <http://www.rezeko.com/solar-hot-water.html>

Local Contact: Helen Halliday: 9531 0280 or jahel@bigpond.net.au

Disclaimer: The above information has been put together by community members to increase awareness of the availability of solar technologies. We recommend you to do your own research before making your final decision.