

Save with the sun. It's that simple.

Eligible households can claim a discount on the cost of solar panels (PV), up to a maximum rebate of \$1,400.



Why install solar panels (PV)?



Save up to \$890 per year on your energy bills

(based on a typical household)



Save up to \$1,400 upfront on your solar PV system



Help create solar industry jobs



Tackle climate change

About the solar panel (PV) rebate

The Solar Homes Program is helping eligible Victorian households to take charge of their power bills by providing a rebate of up to \$1,400 for solar panel (PV) systems for owner occupied properties.

We're also making it even easier to take up solar, introducing a new, more efficient system for applications. The eligibility application process for householders is quick and easy through the Solar Victoria Portal (the Portal).

Your solar retailer will claim the rebate on your behalf and the rebate amount will be deducted from the cost of your overall system and installation. You are responsible for paying any outstanding balance directly to your solar retailer once installed.

Want to add an interest-free loan?

To further reduce costs, owner-occupiers can apply for an interest-free loan, for an amount equivalent to their rebate amount. An interest-free loan, matching the rebate amount, is also available for most solar panel (PV) applications.

In line with the existing rebate, the new interest-free loan can be applied up to an amount of \$1,400. If your total system cost is less than \$2,800, there will be no upfront cost.

The loan is required to be repaid over four years, or can be repaid sooner in one lump sum.

Am I eligible?

Victorian households are eligible to receive a rebate for installing a solar PV system if they meet the following criteria:

- » they are the owner-occupier of the property where the system is being installed
- » they have not already received a rebate as an owner-occupier under the Solar Homes Program
- » the owners have a combined household taxable income of less than \$180,000 per year (based on last year's Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment)
- » it is an existing property, valued at under \$3 million
- » the property address has not previously taken part in the Solar Homes Program
- » they do not have an existing solar PV system*.

* Early adopters who installed their system prior to 1 November 2009 are eligible to replace or expand their existing system. However, those receiving the Premium Feed-in Tariff should consider whether they will be better off if they replace their existing system.

Our Customer Service team can confirm if a property has previously participated in the Solar Homes Program.

Once you're confident that your property fits the eligibility criteria, you should start researching solar retailers who are authorised to participate in the Program and can meet your energy needs.

How to apply

Step 1

Inform yourself

Before you sign a contract for the installation of solar panels, you should be sure that you understand the process and eligibility criteria. Once you have researched and identified the authorised solar retailer you want to use, contact them to obtain a quote.

Step 2

Get a written quote from an authorised solar retailer

Your authorised solar retailer will need to provide you with a written quote that contains the information you need to make an informed decision. They will also upload your quote into the Solar Victoria Portal (the Portal) which will enable you to start the online eligibility process.

You will receive an email notification from the Portal informing you that your quote has been uploaded.

Solar Victoria does not recommend signing a quote acceptance or paying a deposit prior to receiving your rebate eligibility confirmation. As a minimum you should confirm with your retailer that any deposit is fully refundable.

Step 3

Get pre-approval from the Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP)

While it's not part of the eligibility criteria for the solar panel (PV) rebate, if customers are interested in connecting and exporting to the grid it's a good idea to make sure that your installation has Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) pre-approval.

Retailers agree to obtain approval from the DNSP when they upload a quote and complete the Provider Statement on the Portal.

DNSPs are the organisations that affect whether your solar panels or solar battery can be connected to the grid. Applicants should check with their retailer that pre-approval has been given and whether any solar export constraints have been imposed. Solar export constraints can change the amount of savings available to you so it is important to be informed about this.

Step 4

Get your eligibility number and QR code

To start your application for eligibility, you can access your quote via the notification email from the Portal.

Once you have accessed the Portal, you can select the quote provided to us by your retailer and use that as the starting point to assess your eligibility.

Once you are confirmed as eligible, Solar Victoria will provide you a unique eligibility number and QR code that must be scanned by your installer in order to proceed with your installation. Without this eligibility number and QR code, the installation cannot proceed.

There is no maximum/minimum size for solar PV systems eligible for the rebate. The maximum value of the rebate is \$1,400. You should speak to your authorised solar retailer to ensure the size of your system meets any other restrictions that may be in place.

Documentation required to prove eligibility

You will need to provide proof of identity, income and property ownership when you apply via the Solar Victoria Portal, so be sure that you have your paperwork handy when you're ready to apply.

Proof of identity

You will need to enter the details from any 2 forms of ID. These can be a:

- » Driver's licence
- » Medicare card
- » Australian passport
- » Australian birth certificate
- » Foreign passport. This should be a foreign passport with a valid Australian Visa.
- » Immicard

You'll need to make sure the names on both documents are the same.

Proof of property ownership

We require evidence of property ownership. This is provided via your local council rates notice.

Proof of income

We require proof of income documentation for each person named as an owner on your local council rates notice.

For instance, if there is more than one owner of the property, we require proof of income for all listed owners. If there is more than one listed owner, you will need to provide proof of income documents for each person from the same financial year.

Depending on your financial situation, proof of income documents may include:

- » Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment (NOA) confirming annual taxable income
- » Centrelink Payment Summary showing dates, reference number and confirming pension income for the financial year
- » Centrelink PAYG Payment Summary
- » Completed and signed Statutory Declaration if you are a self-funded retiree (i.e. don't receive any payments from Centrelink). Please complete a Statutory Declaration and include your total income including any Superannuation for the financial year
- » Any one of the following Centrelink Concession Cards:
 - » Health Care Card* or Low Income Health Care Card
 - » Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- » Pensioner Concession Card

*Foster Child Health Care Card and Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card are not eligible.

If you didn't receive a taxable income, we still need you to complete a signed Statutory Declaration that states your income amount (e.g. \$0) for the financial year.

Contact us

You can find more information on the program at www.solar.vic.gov.au or call our Customer Service team on 1300 376 393 (during business hours).



If you'd like to speak to us in your language you can access free phone translation services by calling the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

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