

Solar Bonus Scheme Q&As

What is the Solar Bonus Scheme?

The solar bonus scheme is the rate at which domestic and small energy customers get paid for the surplus electricity generated from roof-top solar power systems, that is fed back into the Queensland grid.

How much will consumers be paid?

Customers signed-up to the scheme will be paid 44 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity fed into the grid — around three times the current general domestic use tariff of 14c/kWh (excluding GST).

The average consumer operating a 1kW solar system could save up to 25 per cent on their electricity bill.

Who is eligible for the solar bonus scheme?

The solar bonus scheme is available to domestic and small energy customers who:

- Consume no more than 100 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity a year (the average home uses around 10MWh a year)
- Purchase and install a new solar power system (not solar hot water system) or operate an existing system that is connected to the Queensland electricity grid
- Generate surplus electricity that is fed into the Queensland electricity grid
- Have an agreement in place with their electricity distributor to have adequate metering installed.

When will the scheme begin? When will I get the feed-in tariff payment?

It is anticipated that the tariff will be available from electricity retailers by mid-2008.

Once the scheme commences later in the year, customers wishing to sign-up to receive the tariff should contact their electricity retailer in the first instance.

How long will I get the tariff for?

The solar bonus of 44 cents will be offered until 2028, but is to be reviewed after 10 years or when 8 megawatts of solar systems are installed (equal to 8000 systems of 1 kilowatt capacity), whichever occurs first.

How do consumers sign-up to receive the tariff?

The solar bonus will be paid to consumers by their electricity retailer and will appear as a credit on their bill.

Once the scheme commences later in the year, customers wishing to sign-up to receive the tariff should contact their electricity retailer in the first instance.

Will I need a special meter?

Yes. Customers wishing to claim the solar bonus will need to upgrade their electricity meter to one that separately records electricity imports and exports, or install a second meter to capture this information.

The installation of new or additional meters needs to be arranged with the electricity distributor and the cost is passed on to the individual customer. Costs are expected to be approximately \$300.

How much will it cost me to buy and install a 1kW solar power panel?

A 1kW panel costs around \$13,000.

After the Federal Government \$8000 rebate the cost is around \$5,000.

It is estimated this initiative – coupled with Federal Government incentives – will allow the costs of the power system to be recovered over about 10 years.

How much electricity would a 1 kW panel produce each day?

A 1kW system can produce an average of around 4.6 kWh per day.

How much electricity does an average household consume each day?

An average household consumes around 30kWh of electricity per day. So long as at any time during the day the household demand is less than the instantaneous generation output of system, it will be feeding electricity into the grid.

How much would the average consumer with a (for example 1 kW PV panel) receive as a quarterly credit?

The average consumer could receive a credit for electricity supplied to the grid worth up to 25 per cent of their electricity bill.

Does the Solar Bonus apply Statewide?

Yes, but only to solar systems that are connected to the electricity grid.

How many people currently have solar PVs statewide?

As at September 2007, Queensland had 446 grid-connected systems.