



recs & rebates

green at heart
Your one-stop shop
for building sustainability



Making your home more energy efficient can be much more affordable than you think with a range of Federal, State and Local government rebates available to help with the cost of sustainable improvements.

SOLAR POWER

Solar Credits Scheme

The Solar Credits scheme is the new subsidy system that reduces the up-front costs of installing grid connected solar power systems. This scheme is available to home owners, small businesses and community groups for on and off grid installations and is not means tested. It is based on RECs (renewable energy certificates) which can be traded for cash to help discount the cost of the system.

The main financial benefit under the Solar Credits scheme is an increase in the number of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that a solar system produces. The system will receive five times the number of RECs for the first 1.5 kW of the system capacity. For systems above 1.5kW there is no multiplier for the extra kW and rebates are 1:1. You have 12 months from the date of installation to claim your RECs. RECs can be received as a discount at the point of sale to greatly reduce the installation cost of your solar power system.

Solar Bonus Scheme – Feed in tariff

The Feed in Tariff is a mechanism by which owners of grid connect photovoltaic solar power systems are paid MORE than the retail price for any excess electricity production that is fed back into the grid. Under the Solar Bonus Scheme, your electricity bill will be credited 44c for every excess kilowatt hour (kWh) that you put in above your demand. You buy back electricity at roughly 18c per kWh. The largest benefit is obtained by those who use little power during the day as most of this can convert to credit, meaning that your systems pays itself back sooner.

HOT WATER SYSTEMS

Federal Government Rebate

Rebates of \$1000 for solar hot water systems and \$600 for heat pump hot water systems are available under the renewable energy bonus scheme for households replacing an existing electric storage hot water system.

One rebate is available per property. The system must be eligible for at least 20 RECs. Forms can be downloaded from www.hotwaterrebate.com.au.

Queensland Government Rebate

A rebate of \$600 (or \$1000 for eligible pensioners and low income earners) is available for compliant solar and heat pump hot water systems. This rebate is in addition to available Federal Government rebates.

More information can be found, and application forms downloaded from: www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/solar_hot_water_rebate.cfm

RECs

RECs are also available for hot water systems as an additional discount. Hot water systems generally receive 25-35 RECs per system. REC values can be found at www.orer.gov.au/swh.

RAINWATER AND GREYWATER

Rebates of up to \$500 are available to households for either:

- The purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank which is connected for internal reuse of the water for toilet and/or laundry use; or
- The purchase and installation of a permanent greywater treatment system.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES (RECs)

RECs are Renewable Energy Certificates that are created to help Australia meet its 2020 Renewable Energy Targets requiring 20% of all electricity to be generated by renewable sources. Electricity suppliers need to source increasing amounts of renewable energy through the surrender of RECs to meet these targets and these can be sourced from home owners who have installed various forms of renewable energy.

RECs are created for clean energy systems such as solar power, wind power and solar and heat pump hot water systems. They are determined by where you live, and therefore the amount of available sunlight hours, and the type and size of the system. Hot water systems usually receive from 25-35 RECs per system. Solar power systems receive a greater number of RECs through the Solar Credits Scheme (see above). The price per REC varies as it is market based, and therefore changes with supply and demand. RECs can be offered as a discount at the point of sale.

OTHER INCENTIVES AVAILABLE IN QLD

FREE Sustainability Assessments

Green at Heart are qualified Federal Government Sustainability Assessors. Find out more about the free sustainability assessments valued at \$250.

Climate smart home service

Find out how much power you're wasting at home with the \$50 ClimateSmart Home Service and start saving. They supply and install a wireless power monitor, up to 15 power saving light globes and, where suitable, a water and energy efficient showerhead. For more information visit: www.climatesmarthome.com

**For more information on rebates visit
www.environment.gov.au or our website
www.greenatheart.com.au**