

FACTSHEET #4

#RECYCLERIGHT



ROOFTOP SOLAR FOR HOUSEHOLDS

Around 1 in 4 Aussie homes have solar - reducing bills, emissions and potentially increasing the value or appeal of properties.

If you're looking to make the most of these benefits - follow these steps:

SIZE YOUR SYSTEM

- Most household systems are 6 ½ kilowatts of solar panels with a 5-kilowatt inverter.
- If you're a high electricity user, or plan to add an electric vehicle or battery later, consider sizing up as it can be expensive to add more panels later.
- Solar is a mid-term investment which may take 5 or so years to pay itself off. Projected savings will depend on the system size, electricity costs, the solar feed in tariff and your typical bill. The balance is you are feeding the grid and supplementing your power bill with the rebate for the solar power.
- It's generally more economical to use your own solar energy as much as possible.

CONSIDER SYSTEM PLACEMENT

- Steer clear of shade for your panels – even a small bit can reduce overall performance.
- Keep inverters out of the sun.
- East-facing panels generate more power in the morning.
- West-facing panels will generate more in the late afternoon.
- North-facing panels will generate the most energy overall, but less in the morning and late afternoon.

GET THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

- Solar panels
- Solar inverter
- Racking/mounting (ensure they're cyclone rated).
- Consumption monitor – recommended to track your home's solar use.

Other things to consider are:

- If you have an electric hot water system, a timer switch to your inverter should also be installed.
- Research the efficiency and reliability of the panels, inverters, and components, and consider the warranty period.

PICK THE RIGHT PROVIDER

- Always get a few quotes from suppliers accredited by the Clean Energy Council, look for online reviews and compare 'like for like' prices that include the solar rebate.
- Suppliers will estimate system savings on your behalf too. Ensure these scenarios are realistic as 100% self-consumption may not be possible.
- If financing, beware of zero interest loans which may attract additional installation fees, and shop around for low interest options.

MAKING THE MOST OF SOLAR

Consider electrical appliances that can run during through the day for sun-powered savings.

For example,

- Your dishwasher, washing machine, slow cooker and or pool pumps. Air conditioners can also be set to cool the house down for a short period before returning home.
- Charge cordless devices like laptops, phones, vacuum cleaners during the day.
- Transition to an electric hot water system and power tools.

MAINTENANCE

Keep an eye on your system through the consumption monitor. If you notice reduced output, it may be time to clean your panels. Use water from a normal pressure hose and non-abrasive sponge with soapy water. If you don't have safety equipment for working at heights, call a professional.



Before disposing of anything, have you considered ways to reuse, repair or donate unwanted items?
Visit msc.qld.gov.au/council/water-and-waste/recycling for further information.