

Save with the sun. It's that simple.

Eligible rental properties can access a discount on the cost of solar panels (PV), up to a maximum rebate of \$2,225, providing tenants with access to the benefits of renewable energy.



Why install solar panels (PV) on your rental property?



Rebates of up to \$2,225 upfront for solar panels (PV) on rental properties



An average rental household can save up to \$890 per year on their energy bills



Help create 5,500 solar industry jobs



Tackle climate change

About the solar for rental properties rebate

We're providing a rebate of up to \$2,225 for the installation of solar panels (PV) on rental properties, subject to program eligibility and a Solar Homes Landlord Rebate Agreement.

The eligibility application process for landlords is quick and easy through the Solar Victoria Portal (the Portal).

There are two streams in the Solar for Rental Properties program.

Stream A – rebate only

Stream A is now open and offer a rebate for rental properties, with the landlord paying the remaining cost of the solar system.

A rebate of up to \$2,225 is available for rental properties, subject to a Solar Homes Landlord-Tenant Agreement being signed. A landlord and tenant must sign the agreement in order to participate in the rebate program.

Your solar retailer will claim the rebate on your behalf, via the Portal, and the rebate amount will be deducted from the cost of your overall system and installation. The landlord is responsible for paying any outstanding balance directly to your solar retailer once installed.

Stream B – rebate and interest-free loan

Stream B will offer both a rebate and an interest-free loan to landlords. Under this stream the tenant(s) will contribute to the cost of the system. Stream B will open later in 2019/20.

Before you begin: Understand the program eligibility

Victorians are eligible to receive a solar panel (PV) rebate for a rental property if they meet the following criteria:

- tenants have a combined household taxable income of less than \$180,000 per annum (based on your Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment)
- it is an existing property, valued at under \$3 million
- the property does not have an existing solar PV system*
- there has been no prior participation in the Solar Homes program for that address
- a Solar Homes Landlord Rebate Agreement is signed by landlord and all tenant(s)

*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.

An applicant can apply only once as an owner-occupier (either solar PV, batteries or hot water only) and once as a landlord (solar PV only). Solar PV systems installed on rental properties prior to 1 July 2019 are not eligible for a rebate.

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 and talk to your tenants

Before you sign a contract for solar, you should be sure that you understand the rebate process, the eligibility criteria and the requirements of the Solar Homes Program Agreement between Landlord and Tenant.

You can download the Solar Homes Program Agreement between Landlord and Tenant from the Solar Victoria website and discuss the process to ensure all parties agree.

If eligibility requirements are met and this agreement is signed, the landlord can commence the process of researching and identifying the authorised solar retailer they want to use and 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 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 your eligibility number and QR code

As the landlord, you will need to apply for eligibility via the Solar Victoria Portal. Only the landlord can apply for eligibility. **Your tenants or your solar retailer cannot apply for an eligibility number on your behalf.**

Rebates are released on the 1st of each month and the portal is opened to consumers who have had a quote uploaded. 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.

Documentation required to prove eligibility

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

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

We require proof of income documentation for each person named as a tenant on the Solar Homes Program Agreement between Landlord and Tenant. For instance, if there is more than one tenant listed, we require proof of income documents for each tenant from the same financial year.

Depending on the tenant's 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

If your tenant didn't receive a taxable income, we still need them to complete a signed Statutory Declaration that states their 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 you can call us on 1300 376 393 (during business hours) if you'd prefer to talk to our Customer Service team.

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.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning 2019

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please contact Solar Victoria at comms@team.solar.vic.gov.au. This document is also available on the internet at solar.vic.gov.au.