

## Super charge your solar panel (PV) rebate with an interest-free loan

Eligible householders can apply for an interest-free loan to complement their solar panel (PV) rebate.



### Quick facts about loans



No interest or fee applies and your upfront costs are reduced by up to an additional \$1,888



Loans are only available for solar panels (PV) for householders



Help create 5,500 solar industry jobs

### About interest-free loans

The Solar Homes Program is helping eligible Victorian households to take charge of their power bills by providing a rebate of up to \$1,888 for solar panel (PV) systems for owner occupied properties.

To further reduce costs, owner-occupiers can apply for an interest-free loan, for an amount equivalent to their rebate amount.

In line with the existing rebate, the new interest-free loan can be applied up to an amount of \$1,888. If your total system cost is less than \$3,776, there will be no upfront cost.

The loan is required to be repaid over four years.

You will be notified of your eligibility for a loan as part of the rebate application process via the Solar Victoria Portal. If you are eligible, you can select whether you would like to take up the loan option.

Under the new application process, the rebate and loan amounts will be deducted from the cost of your system – ensuring you only have to pay any outstanding balance once the system is installed. Your solar retailer will then be reimbursed for the rebate and loan amounts.

These loans are not available for solar hot water or solar batteries.

### Example of how the rebate and loan can work for solar panels:

Cost for solar panels (PV) with an interest-free loan	Indicative costs	
	No up-front costs	With up-front costs
Cost of system and installation	\$3,776*	\$6,000*
Rebate amount (paid directly to the solar retailer via the Solar Victoria Portal)	\$1,888	\$1,888
Interest-free loan amount (paid to the solar provider via the Solar Victoria Portal. Loan amount to be repaid by the householder over 4 years)	\$1,888	\$1,888
Up-front costs to householder	\$0	\$2,224

\*Prices are indicative only

## Before you begin: Understand the program eligibility

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

- they are the owner-occupier of the property where the system is being installed
- the combined household taxable income of all owners is 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\*
- they have not already claimed a rebate as an owner-occupier under the Solar Homes Program

\*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.

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.

## Documentation required to prove eligibility

You will need to provide proof of 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.

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 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

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.

## How to apply

### Step 1: Inform yourself

Before you sign a contract for solar, you should be sure that you understand the rebate 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 your eligibility number and QR code

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

Rebates are released twice a 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.

## Contact us

You can find more information on the program at [www.solar.vic.gov.au](http://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.

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