

Notice to Market Solar Homes Program

Published 17 April 2020



Notice to Market Schedule of Updates

Published date	Updates / additions	Refer to page
27 March 2019		
18 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battery rebate information• Program details post July 1	p. 14 Throughout
17 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule of rebate releases• Training and business development• Battery program updates• Safety training requirements	Throughout

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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.

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Minister's Foreword

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering real benefits for Victorians by helping them take control of their energy costs, adopt renewable energy and provide a cleaner, renewable future for all Victorians.

The Solar Homes Program, announced in August 2018, is a 10-year, \$1.3 billion commitment made by the Victorian Government to support Victorians to install solar photovoltaic (PV), solar hot water systems and solar storage batteries to their home.

More than 67,000 Victorian homes are already benefiting from reduced energy bills, saving hundreds of dollars a year, through the Solar Homes Program. It's encouraging to see Victorian households embracing solar PV in record numbers.

This Notice to Market outlines the mandatory and recommended requirements of the Solar Homes Program, including approved products and industry training to participate as an installer.

The Victorian Government is creating a safer solar industry. We are investing \$9 million over the life of the Solar Homes Program, to deliver a subsidised, comprehensive training and workforce development package, to support the ongoing development of the Victorian solar industry.

This is an ideal opportunity for solar businesses and the solar workforce to upskill, with fully funded training available to all installers, apprentices and trade assistants installing under the program. This training will become compulsory for all solar workers in Victoria.

Victoria is leading the way in the transition to renewables, with the Solar Homes Program boosting the uptake of solar PV, solar batteries and solar hot water systems, while creating 5,500 jobs over a decade.

We promised to put power back in the hands of Victorians and that's exactly what we're doing – helping people take control of their energy costs and make a real difference to the state's long-term energy future.

We're acting because it's not just the smart thing to do, it's the right thing to do.

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

*Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes*



Overview

The Solar Homes Program Notice to Market provides industry with a clear overview of all of the rules and expectations for participation in the program from 1 July 2020.

The program design and requirements outlined in this document will ensure continuous improvement of industry standards, with a focus on worker and customer safety, fit for future product installations and assurance that all Victorians can benefit from the boom in clean and affordable solar energy.

This Notice to Market incorporates all program requirements from previous versions. Participants must comply with the requirements prescribed in this document for rebates to apply to their solar and battery systems.

Mandatory requirements must be satisfied for a participant to enter into the Solar Homes Program. Where a participant no longer meets mandatory requirements, Solar Victoria may, at its discretion, suspend or cancel participation in the Solar Homes Program by written notice. Participants must continue to meet the mandatory requirements at all times during their participation in the program.

Recommended requirements are provided to assist participants to select recommended products and services and align systems and their business processes, and signal likely future compliance at a future date. Program participants are advised to plan for the adoption of recommended requirements as potentially mandatory over time.



650,000

solar PV
systems for
owner occupiers



50,000

solar PV systems
for landlords/
tenants



10,000

battery storage
systems



60,000

solar hot water
systems



5,500

jobs



Infrastructure, hardware and technology delivered through the Solar Homes package will be fit for purpose – high quality and correctly configured.

The Solar Homes Program

The Victorian Government's Solar Homes Program supports the installation of 650,000 solar PV systems for owner occupiers, 50,000 solar PV systems for landlords and tenants, 10,000 battery storage systems, and 60,000 solar hot water systems across the state for the coming decade.

Solar Homes will cut Victoria's carbon emissions by almost four million tonnes annually once fully rolled out in 2028 – the same as taking one million of Victoria's 4.6 million cars off the road – and generate about one-eighth of Victoria's 40 per cent target for renewable energy by 2025.

The program will be rolled out over 10 years, helping ensure the highest standards in safety and quality.

The Solar Homes Program is a key pillar of the Government's commitment to putting power back in the hands of Victorians and supporting 770,000 Victorian households to cut power bills. The Solar Homes Program is an important opportunity to develop Victoria's residential solar industry, creating new businesses, jobs and training opportunities. Safety is paramount and standards will continue to evolve over the life of the Program, to ensure the highest quality, safety and consumer protections.

To support the Victorian solar industry into the future, we will need to make changes in how we use energy and the technology used to provide it. These changes will have implications for the broader market for solar systems, the electrical network and customers across Victoria.

Notice to Market

Participation in the Solar Homes Program is governed by the requirements set out in this Notice to Market as well as terms and conditions and other guidelines available at www.solar.vic.gov.au.

Solar Victoria will periodically review program requirements in consultation with industry.

This Notice to Market replaces all previous notices and builds on previous notices published at www.solar.vic.gov.au. Further notices will be published as and when required.

Future development of the Technology Roadmap

Hosting increasing numbers of solar PV systems in Victoria in a way that supports reliable, clean and affordable electricity hinges on collaborative, decisive and informed action.

Solar Victoria is developing a Technology Roadmap to support the evolution of Victoria's energy grid and drive quality, safety, sustainability and consumer-protection outcomes for industry and consumers.

Installation and safety standards will be consistent with best practice to prevent unreasonable risks to health and safety. Solar Victoria is working with industry and consumer groups to continuously and transparently evolve.

Infrastructure, hardware and technology delivered through the Solar Homes Program will be fit for purpose – high quality and correctly configured.

For more information

For further information on all rebate programs, please visit www.solar.vic.gov.au.

For further information, please contact enquiries@team.solar.vic.gov.au.

Notice to Market Summary

The tables in this document set out the mandatory and recommended requirements for participating in the Solar Homes Program.

Mandatory – Mandatory requirements must be satisfied for a participant to enter into the Solar Homes Program. Where a participant no longer meets mandatory requirements, Solar Victoria may, at its discretion, suspend or cancel participation in the Solar Homes Program by written notice.

Participants must continue to meet the mandatory requirements at all times during their participation in the program.

Recommended – Recommended requirements are optional and do not affect eligibility at the time of publication of this notice but ensure the program delivers the best outcome for Victorians and their state. Recommended requirements signal to industry criteria likely to become mandatory in the future. Industry participants should consider early adoption of recommended requirements and plan accordingly.





Solar Victoria Portal

All solar and battery rebates are accessed via the Solar Victoria Portal (the Portal) created for consumers and retailers to easily apply and manage eligibility and rebated claims online under the program.

Applicants are only able to benefit from rebates and loans after they have received confirmation of their eligibility and have been notified that they may proceed with the installation by Solar Victoria. Rebates are only paid to retailers who have received confirmation of an applicant's eligibility prior to the installation of a system.

The Portal allows households and retailers to transact with Solar Victoria.

Service Victoria and State Trustees are delivery partners. Since 1 July 2019, the Portal has allowed retailers to register with the program and receive automated rebate payments and applicants to apply for a rebate and loan (where eligible).

Retailers

Item	Mandatory	Notes
Registration on the Solar Victoria Portal	<p>All solar retailers wishing to claim a rebate through the Solar Homes Program must be registered on the Solar Victoria Portal before an installation occurs.</p> <p>All solar PV retailers must be authorised by Solar Victoria to participate in the Solar Homes Program. Authorised retailers are those who fulfil the Solar Homes Program requirements, including being a Signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Approved Solar Retailer Code of Conduct and maintaining the status of an Approved Solar Retailer with the Clean Energy Council.</p>	<p>To register as a retailer, please contact Solar Victoria on retailers@team.solar.vic.gov.au or phone via 1300 376 393 – Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 6:00pm (except public holidays).</p>

Installers

Item	Mandatory	Notes
Registration on the Solar Victoria Portal	<p>All solar PV installers must be Clean Energy Council accredited before an installation can occur.</p> <p>Accredited installers must maintain a current accreditation status to participate in the Solar Homes Program.</p>	<p>For installer queries, please contact Solar Victoria on installers@team.solar.vic.gov.au or by phone via 1300 376 393 – Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 6:00pm (except public holidays).</p>



Approved Solar Retailer Code of Conduct

All retailers of solar PV and solar batteries must be approved by the Clean Energy Council (CEC) as a signatory to the Solar Retailer Code of Conduct (Approved Solar Retailer).

The Clean Energy Council Solar Retailer Code of Conduct is a way for solar businesses to show their commitment to responsible sales and marketing activities and solar industry best practice. It aims to lift the bar higher than the minimum requirements and bring about a better standard of service within the solar industry.

Approved solar retailers must agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct which has been authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Approved solar retailers are committed to:

- ensuring sales representatives act ethically at all times;
- not engaging in any dishonest or misleading advertising or sales tactics;
- upholding consumers' legal rights relating to cooling-off periods and refunds;
- providing a minimum five-year warranty covering the operation and performance of the entire PV system;
- providing consumers with all required documentation after the PV system is installed;
- having a fair and transparent complaints process;
- adhering to all existing legislation and regulations;
- complying with all code administration, compliance arrangements and breach of code procedures;
- cooperate with inquiries of the Clean Energy Council and to be subject to Code administration, oversight and compliance processes under the Clean Energy Council's Solar Retailer Code of Conduct.

The requirements specified in this section apply to all participation in the program. Additional requirements applying to specific parts of the program are outlined in the following sections.

Approved Solar Retailer Requirement

Item	Mandatory	Notes
Approved Solar Retailer Scheme	All solar PV retailers must be authorised by Solar Victoria to participate in the Solar Homes Program. Authorised retailers are those who fulfil the Solar Homes Program requirements, including being a Signatory to the Clean Energy Council's Approved Solar Retailer Code of Conduct and maintaining the status of an Approved Solar Retailer with the Clean Energy Council.	Solar Victoria will consider other equivalent industry codes if authorised by the ACCC.

Solar Panel Rebate for Rental Properties

The solar panel rebate for rental properties will offer 50,000 rebates on solar PV systems to benefit Victorian renters.

The solar panel rebate for rental properties will continue in 2020-21, with an additional offering of an interest-free loan to complement the rebate.

A rebate up to the value of \$1,850 is available for landlords for the installation of an eligible solar PV system.

Eligible landlords can opt to take up an interest-free loan equal to the value of their rebate to decrease the upfront installation cost for property owners.

Landlords can choose to repay the loan themselves or seek a contribution of up to 50 per cent of the cost of the loan repayment from the tenant, over a four year period.

Tenant contributions can only occur with the tenant's consent and the arrangement must be confirmed in a landlord-tenant agreement.

Solar Panel Rebate for Rental Properties

Item	Eligibility	Notes
Retailers must be registered on the Solar Victoria portal and retailers must be a signatory to the Clean Energy Council Approved Solar Retailer Code of Conduct effective the date communicated to the party (see Approved Solar Retailer section).	Mandatory	
No previous participation in the Solar Homes Program for the address.	Mandatory	
A maximum of two rebates per financial year will be allowed for any given rental property owner, increasing the number of tenants able to benefit from the Solar Homes Program.	Mandatory	e.g. a person could access up to three rebates in different roles, twice as a landlord and once as an owner occupier.
When a loan is accessed the applicant must submit a satisfactory credit check to provide confirmation that there is no history of difficulties repaying debts.	Mandatory	Landlords may ask tenants to contribute up to 50 per cent of the cost of the loan repayment, to be repaid to the landlord over a four year period. Such an arrangement can only occur with the tenant's consent. In 2020-21 this represents a maximum of \$19.27 to be repaid per month, to be repaid until the end of the four year period or until the tenant vacates, whichever is earliest.
Complete and signed landlord/tenant sub-agreement attached to application. Defining the roles and responsibilities of tenant and landlord.	Mandatory	
Use of approved product, as included on Solar Victoria's Approved Product List.	Mandatory	



Solar Battery Rebate

From 1 July 2020, the Solar Homes Program solar battery rebate will expand, delivering more benefits to Victorian households.

Individual household battery rebates

Solar Victoria will continue to offer eligible individual households rebates which may represent up to half of the cost of an average-priced 11kWh home battery.

Aggregating household battery rebates

In addition to the current solar battery rebate, from 1 July 2020 we are encouraging the aggregation of batteries funded under the Solar Homes Program to support the expansion and reach of the benefits of battery storage.

Aggregation is the process of combining small-scale distributed energy technologies like household solar or storage to increase the overall capacity and impact of technology for the individual household and the wider Victorian community.

Household benefits

By adding a solar PV battery, households can save hundreds of dollars a year on their energy bills, in addition to the savings already being made with solar PV.

Households participating in aggregation programs agree to allow a power company to access stored energy from their battery storage during peak energy events.

Victorian benefits

By supporting businesses with aggregating capabilities, such as energy retailers, programs can control the use of this additional energy from distributed resources (such as rooftop solar) and provide increased reliability across the grid. By encouraging and supporting the development of aggregation programs, Solar Victoria seeks to support a reduction in the cost of power system augmentation so consumers aren't landed with unnecessary costs.

Aggregation will increasingly become a vital tool to enable the increased visibility of energy usage across the grid, enabling technology to be deployed in key areas where there may be already high penetration of solar PV, and resulting in the increased reliability and security of the grid.

Batteries are required to be on [Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List](#) which are comprised of energy storage solutions considered 'Virtual Power Plant (VPP) capable' with technical capabilities aligned with Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) NEW VPP Demonstration Program Minimum Capability Specifications. These systems are on the Clean Energy Council's (CEC) list of Approved Energy Storage Devices and have been assessed for capabilities including performance, safety, internet accessibility, security, and remote registration, monitoring and control. This required functionality allows batteries to provide network support services and participate in virtual power plants and future energy marketplaces.

By expanding the battery program to include approved aggregators, Solar Victoria aims to maximise the benefits of solar batteries and support participating households to realise additional energy savings. By supporting the roll-out of aggregation programs we will work in partnership with providers of aggregation services to ensure additional benefits to non-solar households and the future of our energy grid.

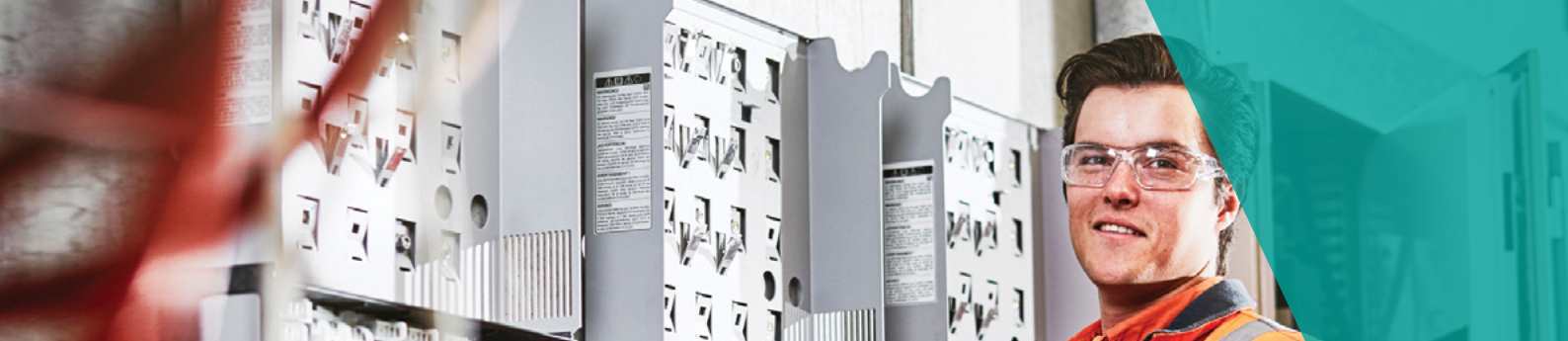


WARNUNG!
Die Installation dieses Produkts muss von einem qualifizierten Fachpersonal durchgeführt werden. Bei falscher Installation kann das Produkt beschädigt werden und es besteht die Gefahr von Verletzungen oder Sachschaden.
WARNUNG!
Das Produkt enthält gefährliche Spannungen. Bei Wartungsarbeiten muss das Produkt vom Strom getrennt werden. Bei falscher Handhabung besteht die Gefahr von Verletzungen oder Sachschaden.
ADVERTENCIA!
Este producto contiene voltajes peligrosos. Durante la instalación o el mantenimiento, asegúrese de desconectar el producto de la fuente de alimentación eléctrica para evitar lesiones o daños al equipo.
AVVERTISSEMENT!
Ce produit contient des tensions dangereuses. Lors de l'installation ou de la maintenance, assurez-vous de déconnecter le produit de la source d'alimentation électrique pour éviter les blessures ou les dommages à l'équipement.
AVISO!
Este equipo eléctrico contiene voltajes peligrosos. Durante la instalación o el mantenimiento, asegúrese de desconectar el equipo de la fuente de alimentación eléctrica para evitar lesiones o daños al equipo.

Solar Battery Rebate

Homeowner, Product, Retailer and Workforce Requirements

Solar Battery Rebate		
Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Overall energy storage solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List. System installed in compliance with "AS/NZS 5139:2019 - Electrical installations - Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment". Minimum whole of system warranty of 5 years, with a 5-year warranty on workmanship, and a minimum performance warranty of 7 years under daily cycling operation. Battery system to be registered on the Australian Energy Market Operator's Distributed Energy Resources Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013". Where an energy storage solution is installed within a room, a functioning smoke alarm shall be installed in the same room.
Component: Energy Storage Device (Battery Energy Storage Systems [BESS] or Battery Systems [BS])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed as one of the overall energy storage solutions on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List. Complies with the Australian Best Practice Guide: Battery Storage Equipment – Electrical Safety Requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".
Component: Battery Inverter (hybrid inverter or integrated Power Conversion Equipment in a Battery Energy Storage System)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed with one of the overall energy storage solutions on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".
Battery installer (tradesperson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds current Clean Energy Council installer accreditation with Battery Endorsement. Holds unrestricted (A Grade) electrical licence issued by Energy Safe Victoria; or, Holds equivalent Australian interstate electrical licence with mutual recognition by Energy Safe Victoria. Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. Sets solar PV inverter power quality settings (Volt-Var and Volt-Watt) in compliance with Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) requirements. Has attained the "VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry" accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. Has attained the "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has training by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) on the specific energy storage solution that is being installed. Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013". Has attained "22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" accredited course.



Solar Battery Rebate

Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Other on-site Battery Workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.
Battery Retailer (business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All retailers must be approved by the Clean Energy Council as a signatory to the <u>Solar Retailer Code of Conduct (Approved Solar Retailer Scheme)</u>. Be a registered provider on the Solar Victoria Portal. Provide a whole of system warranty (including workmanship) of a minimum of 5 years and a minimum performance warranty of 7 years under daily cycling operation. Confirmation all workers engaged to install battery systems have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>"Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)"</u> training unit certification. Mandatory from 1 January 2021 <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/ Construction Induction Card). Compliance with the Victorian Government's <u>ban on electronic waste to landfill</u>. No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered with Energy Safe Victoria as a <u>Registered Electrical Contractor (REC)</u>. Main business location listed as "Victoria" according to the Australian Government's <u>Australian Business Register</u>. Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".
Homeowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be eligible to receive a Solar Homes rebate and have received confirmation of their eligibility and notification that they may proceed with their installation by Solar Victoria before proceeding to install a system. Have pre-approval from the Distributed Network Service Provider to host an Energy Storage System. Be in a <u>Solar Victoria listed postcode eligible for battery rebates</u>. Have an existing solar PV system with a solar PV capacity equal to or greater than 5kW. Not have an existing energy storage system. Not have received a rebate for solar PV or solar hot water under the Solar Homes Program. Be willing to receive information from their distribution business and/or retailer and/or other Virtual Power Plant type businesses about participating in battery trials to maximise the value households get from their battery. Agree to a receiving a free safety inspection and/ or audit under the Solar Victoria Audit Program if selected. 	

Rationale

Solar Battery Rebate

Overall energy storage solution		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery List confirms that the battery system meets Solar Victoria's criteria for safety, quality and technical capability. Components of the overall energy storage solution are each listed on the Clean Energy Council's Approved Energy Storage and Power Conversion Equipment lists, confirming via certified evidence, the products meet minimum safety requirements for use in Australia. The CEC list has been refined for battery solutions that have been assessed to be 'VPP-capable', with technical capabilities aligned with AEMO's NEM VPP Demonstration Program Minimum Capability Specifications that enable the battery to provide network support services, participate in virtual power plants and/or future Distributed Energy Resource marketplaces. Solutions on the Solar Victoria Approved Battery List will be certified to IEC 62116 Anti-Islanding Standard and have Volt-Var and Volt-Watt response modes available. The systems on Solar Victoria's Approved Battery list have been assessed for technical capabilities including performance, safety, internet accessibility, security, and remote registration, monitoring and control. They represent one of first steps towards greater facilitation of Distributed Energy Resources in the network, as outlined by the Australian Open Energy Networks program and the reform program of California Rule 21 (amongst others). Applications for new battery solutions to be included on the Solar Victoria Approved Battery list can be submitted by registered Solar Homes Providers and original equipment manufacturers via email at enquiries@team.solar.vic.gov.au.
Systems installed in compliance with "AS/NZS 5139:2019 - Electrical installations - Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment".	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery installations are required to conform to "AS/NZS 5139:2019 - Electrical installations - Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment", a standard explicitly relating to the safe installation of modern battery systems.



Overall energy storage solution

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Energy storage device complies with the Australian Best Practice Guide: Battery Storage Equipment – Electrical Safety Requirements .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This best practice guide represents industry best-practice in the safe installation of home battery systems. The guide has been developed by industry associations involved in renewable energy battery storage equipment, with input from energy network operators, private certification bodies, and other independent stakeholder groups and individuals, as well as consumer and electrical safety regulators, including the Clean Energy Council, Smart Energy Council, CSIRO, AI Group, and the Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association.
Minimum whole of system warranty of 5 years, with a 5-year warranty on workmanship, and a minimum performance warranty of 7 years under daily cycling operation.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum 5-year whole-of-system warranty is an explicit mandatory requirement of the Solar Homes Program, including on workmanship. A further minimum performance warranty of 7 years is required under daily cycling operation, aligning with requirements for the South Australian Home Battery Scheme.
Battery system to be registered on the Australian Energy Market Operator's Distributed Energy Resources Register.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AEMO is obliged under the National Electricity Rules to establish a static register of Distributed Energy Resources in the National Electricity Market. Solar Victoria aims to support the registration of all batteries supported under the Solar Homes Program, when this register is made available. For rebated systems that are installed prior to the register being available, information will be shared with AEMO in accordance with existing data sharing agreements.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, Solar Victoria recognises the national stewardship approach for end-of-life energy storage equipment presently underway and support best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.
Where an energy storage solution is installed within a room, a functioning smoke alarm shall be installed in the same room.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement to install a smoke alarm in the same room as an energy storage solution is included in the battery installation standard "AS/NZS 5139:2019 - Electrical installations - Safety of battery systems for use with power conversion equipment". Safety is the top priority of the Solar Homes Program and the installation of a smoke alarm reduces the risk of injury and property damage.

Rationale

Solar Battery Rebate

Battery installer (tradesperson)		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Holds current Clean Energy Council <u>accreditation</u> with Battery Endorsement.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation confirms an individual has undertaken industry specific training relevant to the installation of battery systems. The accreditation scheme includes continuous professional development requirements and a compliance regime.
Holds an <u>unrestricted (A Grade) electrical licence issued by Energy Safe Victoria</u> ; or, holds equivalent Australian interstate electrical licence with mutual recognition by Energy Safe Victoria.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the <i>Electrical Safety (General) Regulations 2019</i>, complete installation of a grid-connected solar PV system qualifies as prescribed electrical installation work and must therefore be done by a licensed electrician.
Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/ regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations protects the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.
PV inverter power quality settings (volt-var and volt-watt) set to comply with the Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) requirements.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian distribution network service providers (DNSPs) have mandated unified power quality (volt-watt and volt var) response mode settings for most inverter connections since 1 December 2019. Typically, installers are required to manually enable this functionality and program the mandated thresholds. All installations must comply with DNSP network connection agreements.
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), the Clean Energy Council, the Plumbing Pipes Trades and Employee Union (PPTU), Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.



Battery installer (tradesperson)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/ construction induction training, first aid and working at heights.
Have specific training from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for specific energy storage devices.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation requirements are specific to individual OEMs, and typical warranties require the installer to have been accredited by the OEM in addition to receiving basic battery installation training. Specific training increases the competence of installers across the sector and provides greater assurance for the safety of installations.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/ or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, Solar Homes recognises the national stewardship approach for end-of-life energy storage equipment presently underway and support best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.

Rationale

Solar Battery Rebate

Other on-site solar battery workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union, the Clean Energy Council, the Plumbing Pipes Trades and Employee Union, Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.
Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/ construction induction training, first aid and working at heights.



Rationale

Solar Battery Rebate

Battery retailer (business)		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
All retailers must be approved by the Clean Energy Council as a signatory to the Solar Retailer Code of Conduct (Approved Solar Retailer Scheme) .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Retailer Code of Conduct is a voluntary scheme, authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which sets requirements on sales, marketing practices and documentation, and aims to exceed the minimum set by government and regulations. Signatories undergo a stringent application process and are subject to monitoring and a compliance and sanctions regime. Solar Victoria will consider other equivalent ACCC authorised industry codes as they are developed.
<p>Confirmation all workers engaged to install battery systems have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)" training unit certification. Mandatory from 1 January 2021 "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/ Construction Induction Card). 	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System retailers have a responsibility to ensure workers are appropriately trained to perform high-risk work. Retailers must perform due diligence to ensure all workers meet the regulated and contractual requirements of participating in the Solar Homes Program.
Compliance with the Victorian Government's ban on electronic waste to landfill .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Government has banned e-waste from landfill in Victoria, effective 1 July 2019. E-waste is growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia, and it contains both valuable and hazardous materials which can be recovered when they reach the end of their working life. The Waste Management Policy (e-waste) was approved by the Executive Council on 26 June 2018 and gazetted on 28 June 2018. The Victorian Government Gazette e-waste order can be found on pages 1457 to 1463. E-waste describes any device which requires an electro-magnetic current (including anything with a plug, cord or battery) to operate and includes all solar products at the end of their useful life i.e. panels, inverter an energy storage equipment. Sustainability Victoria lists locations to dispose of various types of e-waste. Further information on managing e-waste can be found on the EPA's "Managing e-waste" website pages.



Battery retailer (business)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/ regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety laws and regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.
Registered with Energy Safe Victoria as a <u>Registered Electrical Contractor (REC)</u> .	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a battery retailer is also a Registered Electrical Contractor the entity is subject to the <i>Electrical Safety Act 1998</i>. Registered electrical contractors are obliged to provide safety certificates to parties for whom electrical work is carried out. While registration as a Registered Electrical Contractor is not a mandatory requirement for the provision of electrical services, it places greater responsibility on the retailer to ensure worker and customer safety.
Main business location listed as "Victoria" according to the Australian Government's <u>Australian Business Register</u> .	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key element of the Solar Homes Program concerns driving job creation with strong local content and industry development to build local supply chains. Prioritising businesses with a main business location of Victoria contributes to achieving this.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/ NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, the Solar Homes Program recognises the national stewardship approach for end-of-life energy storage equipment presently underway and supports best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.

Rationale

Solar Battery Rebate

Homeowner		
Item	Eligibility Status	Notes
Be in a Solar Victoria listed postcode eligible for battery rebates. A full list of eligible postcodes is available on the Solar Victoria website.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The solar battery rebate is only available to households in postcodes that are expected to have a growing population, already have high solar PV penetration rates, and where the installation of batteries, among other distributed energy resources, could help to meet growing demand for electricity. Solar Victoria will continue to consider innovative solutions to refine the program and maximise the benefits of the battery program as it rolls out.
Have an existing solar PV system with a solar PV capacity equal to or greater than 5kW.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5kW solar PV system will allow households to adequately charge a battery from solar-generated electricity at peak generation, reducing the need to use electricity from the grid.
Not have an existing Energy Storage System.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The solar battery rebate will support the installation of batteries for those who do not yet have them.
Have a pre-approval from the Distributed Network Service Provider to host an energy storage system.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pre-approval from your Distribution Network Service Provider is an eligibility requirement for a battery rebate to ensure that the battery can be safely connected to the network. Unfortunately, not every household may be able to receive pre-approval for various reasons including the strength of the local grid. It is also possible connection approval provided by the DNSP are subject to export limitations. The Victorian Distribution Code regulates the distribution and connection of electricity to customers, and safety of the community is a key priority.
Be willing to receive information from their distribution business and/or retailer and/or other Virtual Power Plant type businesses about participating in battery trials to maximise the value households get from their battery.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebate recipients are required to consent to having their contact details passed onto their distribution business and/or retailer and/or other Virtual Power Plant type businesses so that they may be contacted with information about participating in voluntary battery trials.
Agree to receiving a free safety inspection and/or audit under the Solar Victoria Audit Program if selected.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, not every household may be able to receive pre-approval for various reasons including the strength of the local grid. It is also possible connection approval provided by the DNSP may be subject to export limitations. The Victorian Distribution Code regulates the distribution and connection of electricity to customers, and safety of the community is a key priority.



Photo credit: Fronius International GmbH

Homeowner

Eligible Postcodes	Eligibility Status	Notes
Only applicants in designated postcodes are eligible to apply for a battery rebate under the Solar Homes Program. A full list of eligible postcodes is available on the Solar Victoria website.	Mandatory	<p>The solar battery rebate will target available rebates on eligible postcodes.</p> <p>The installation of batteries, may help to meet growing demand for electricity.</p> <p>These target postcodes have been selected on two criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have a high population growth; 2. They have a high proportion of households with existing solar PV systems.



Solar Panel Rebate

The Solar Homes Program will provide a rebate on the cost of a solar PV system, up to a maximum of \$1,850. To further reduce the up front cost of solar PV systems, eligible Victorians property owners can apply for an interest-free loan equal to the rebate amount at the same time as they apply for the rebate.

The loan and rebate amount is deducted from the cost of the system by the retailer, significantly decreasing the initial outlay required to install a Solar panel (PV) system.

Over the ten-year program, Solar Homes will support 700,000 households to install solar PV systems, helping owner-occupiers, renters, and community housing residents to reduce their energy costs, generate clean, renewable energy and reduce their household emissions.

Further information on rebates and release dates can be found on our website www.solar.vic.gov.au.



Solar Panel Rebate

Product, Retailer and Workforce Requirements

Solar PV systems		
Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Solar PV inverter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed on the Clean Energy Council's Approved Inverter List. Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Solar PV Inverter List¹. Certified to IEC 62116 (grid-connected inverters only). Power quality response modes (volt-watt and volt-var) available and can be set to comply with Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) connection agreements. Must have internet capability (ability to share data via the World Wide Web). <p>Mandatory from 1 September 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have an on-board communication port that can be used for a physical connection to another device (eg. via RJ45, USB and RS-232). <p>Mandatory from 1 September 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes remote monitoring (proprietary or third party) via secure connection. Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013". Includes a communication protocol. Inverter energy system capable of switching external loads (via inverter or third party device).
Solar PV module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed on the Clean Energy Council's Approved Module List. Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved PV Module List². Listed by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) as a participating brand in the joint CER and industry Solar Panel Validation (SPV) Initiative³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of an electronic customer record confirming installed solar PV modules are verified as part of the joint CER and industry Solar Panel Validation Initiative. VDE Quality Tested; or, Certified to IEC 62941. Certified to IEC 62804 (for crystalline modules). Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".

¹ <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/industry/products/inverters/approved-inverters>

² <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/industry/products/modules/approved-modules>

³ <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/RET/Scheme-participants-and-industry/Solar-Panel-Validation-initiative>



Solar PV systems		
Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Solar PV installer (tradesperson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds current Clean Energy Council accreditation. • Holds an <u>unrestricted (A Grade) electrical licence issued by Energy Safe Victoria</u>; or, holds equivalent Australian interstate electrical licence with mutual recognition by Energy Safe Victoria. • Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/ regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. • Solar PV inverter power quality settings (Volt-Var and Volt-Watt) set to comply with Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) requirements. • Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry" accredited unit of competency</u>. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. • Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card)</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.
Other on-site solar PV workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry" accredited unit of competency</u>. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. • Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card)</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.
Solar PV retailer (business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All retailers must be approved by the Clean Energy Council as a signatory to the <u>Solar Retailer Code of Conduct (Approved Solar Retailer Scheme)</u>. • Compliance with the Victorian Government's <u>ban on electronic waste to landfill</u>. • Confirmation all workers engaged to install solar PV systems have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>"Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)" training unit certification</u>. Mandatory from 1 January 2021 • <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/ Construction Induction Card)</u>. • No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/ regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with Energy Safe Victoria as a <u>Registered Electrical Contractor (REC)</u>. • Main business location listed as "Victoria" according the Australian Government's <u>Australian Business Register</u>. • Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013". • Provide solar PV system owners with a financial performance estimate.

Rationale

Solar Panel Rebate

Solar PV Inverter		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Listed on the Clean Energy Council's approved inverter List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This listing confirms, via certified evidence, inverters meet minimum product standards for usage in Australia. Listing is currently a requirement under the federal government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).
Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Solar PV Inverter List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This listing confirms inverters meet additional requirements, above minimum industry standards, to be eligible to participate in the Solar Homes Program.
Certified to IEC 62116 (grid-connected inverters only).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification to this standard provides enhanced testing procedures for protection against "islanding" faults (above minimum mandatory safety standards). This translates to safer installations for electrical workers and consumers. Enforcement of this functionality is an emerging requirement in regions with high penetration of distributed energy resources (DER) i.e. Western Power, South Australia Power Networks (SAPN) and Energy Queensland. The Clean Energy Council's approved list specifies which inverters comply with this standard.
Power quality response modes (volt-watt and volt-var) are available and can be set to comply with Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) connection agreements.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volt response modes facilitate greater penetration of distributed energy resources (DER) by automatically improving grid power quality. Requiring the availability of these modes represents one of first steps towards greater facilitation of DER in the network, as outlined by the Australian Open Energy Networks program and the reform program of California Rule 21 (amongst others), and as already required by South Australia Power Network and Western Power. Victorian distribution network service providers (DNSPs) have mandated specific unified power quality (volt-watt and volt-var) response mode settings for most inverter connections since 1 December 2019.
Must have internet capability (ability to share data via the World Wide Web) and an on-board communication port that can be used for a physical connection to another device (eg. via RJ45, USB and RS-232).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet capability and an on-board communication port are minimum infrastructure requirements to enable communication between inverter energy systems and third parties. Systems with these minimum requirements may participate in future energy markets and/ or dynamic connection arrangements. Approximately 99 per cent of solar PV inverters installed in the Solar Homes Program since 1 July 2019 satisfy these requirements.



Solar PV Inverter

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Includes remote monitoring (proprietary or third party).	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring facilitates greater consumer energy management and engagement. Monitoring facilitates system fault and performance analysis.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, Solar Homes recognises the national stewardship approach underway for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.
Includes a communication protocol.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication protocols support third party (eg. aggregator, platform provider, distribution network service provider, distribution service operator, etc) visibility, communication and orchestration. Systems with communication protocols may participate in future energy markets and/ or dynamic connection arrangements. Approximately 95 per cent of solar PV inverters installed in the Solar Homes Program since 1 July 2019 have a communication protocol.
Inverter energy system capable of switching external loads (via inverter or third party device).	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functionality to switch loads facilitates increased self-consumption of generated solar power resulting in better financial outcomes for households and optimises integration with the grid.

Rationale

Solar Panel Rebate

Solar PV Module		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Listed on the Clean Energy Council's Approved Module List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This listing confirms, via certified evidence, solar PV modules meet minimum product standards for usage in Australia. Listing is currently a requirement under the Federal Government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).
Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved PV Module List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This listing confirms PV modules meet the requirements, above minimum industry standards, to be eligible to participate in the Solar Homes Program.
Listed by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) as a participating brand in the joint CER and industry Solar Panel Validation (SPV) Initiative .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in this initiative is a precursor to validation. Validation confirms PV modules are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genuine (e.g. not counterfeit) Approved (as per the Clean Energy Council's approved products list) Backed by manufacturer's warranties Meet Australian Standards Eligible for Small Scale Technology Certificates (STCs) and rebates under the Solar Homes Program. At least 38 manufacturers and importers participate in the validation initiative. Approximately 92 per cent of solar PV modules in the Solar Homes Program since 1 July 2019 participate in the validation initiative.



Solar PV Module

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Provision of an electronic customer record confirming installed solar PV modules are verified as part of the joint CER and industry Solar Panel Validation Initiative.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation provides customers with an electronic record of confirmation that their installed solar panels are verified as part of the initiative. The record includes information such as the make and model of the solar PV modules, serial numbers, the time and date of installation and the location. Validation via this initiative confirms solar PV modules are genuine, approved (as per the Clean Energy Councils approved products list), backed by manufacturers warranties, meet Australian Standards; and are eligible for Small Scale Technology Certificates (STCs) and rebates under the Solar Homes Program.
VDE Quality Tested; or, Certified to IEC 62941.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VDE quality tested and IEC 62941 certified solar PV modules are those that have demonstrated a higher degree of quality assurance, predominately in the manufacturing process. Approximately 4 per cent of solar PV modules comply with at least one of these quality assurance methods.
Certified to IEC 62804 (for crystalline topology solar PV modules).	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification to IEC 62804 ensures solar PV modules offer greater durability against forms of accelerated degradation resulting in better long-term performance and reliability. Approximately 28 per cent of solar PV modules are currently certified this standard. This standard only applies to crystalline solar PV modules. That is, other topologies (technology types) are not covered. This standard is especially relevant in higher voltage solar PV arrays.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, Solar Homes recognises the national stewardship approach underway for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.

Rationale

Solar Panel Rebate

Solar PV Installer (tradesperson)		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Holds current Clean Energy Council accreditation .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation confirms an individual has undertaken industry specific training relevant to the installation of solar PV systems. The accreditation scheme includes continuous professional development requirements and a compliance regime. Accreditation is currently a requirement under the Federal Government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).
Holds an unrestricted (A Grade) electrical licence issued by Energy Safe Victoria ; or, holds equivalent Australian interstate electrical licence with mutual recognition by Energy Safe Victoria.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the <i>Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations 2009</i> and <i>Electricity Safety Act 1998</i>, complete installation of a grid-connected solar PV system qualifies as prescribed electrical installation work and must therefore be done by a licensed electrician.
Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.
Sets PV inverter power quality settings (volt-var and volt-watt) to comply with the Distribution Network Service Provider (DNSP) requirements.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian distribution network service providers (DNSPs) have mandated unified power quality (volt-watt and volt var) response mode settings for most inverter connections since 1 December 2019. Typically, installers are required to manually enable this functionality and program the mandated thresholds. All installations must comply with DNSP network connection agreements.



Solar PV Installer (tradesperson)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union, the Clean Energy Council, the Plumbing Pipes Trades and Employee Union, Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.
Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/construction induction training, first aid and working at heights.

Rationale

Solar Panel Rebate

Other on-site solar PV workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union, the Clean Energy Council, the Pipes Trades and Employee Union, Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.
Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/ construction induction training, first aid and working at heights.



Rationale

Solar Panel Rebate

Solar PV retailer (business)		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
All retailers must be approved by the Clean Energy Council as a signatory to the Solar Retailer Code of Conduct (Approved Solar Retailer Scheme) .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Retailer Code of Conduct is a voluntary scheme, authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), which sets requirements on sales, marketing practices and documentation, and aims to exceed the minimum set by government and regulations. Signatories undergo a stringent application process and are subject to monitoring and a compliance and sanctions regime. Solar Victoria will consider other equivalent ACCC authorised industry codes as they are developed.
Confirmation all workers engaged to install solar PV systems have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)" training unit certification. Mandatory from 1 January 2021 "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/ Construction Induction Card). 	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System retailers have a responsibility to ensure workers are appropriately trained to perform high-risk work. Retailers must perform due diligence to ensure all workers meet the regulated and contractual requirements of participating in the Solar Homes Program.
Compliance with the Victorian Government's ban on electronic waste to landfill .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Government has banned e-waste from landfill in Victoria, effective 1 July 2019. E-waste is growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia, and it contains both valuable and hazardous materials that can be recovered when they reach the end of their working life. The Waste Management Policy (e-waste) was approved by the Executive Council on 26 June 2018 and gazetted on 28 June 2018. The Victorian Government Gazette e-waste order can be found on pages 1457 to 1463. E-waste describes any device which requires an electro-magnetic current (including anything with a plug, cord or battery) to operate and includes all solar products at the end of their useful life i.e. panels, inverter an energy storage equipment. Sustainability Victoria lists locations to dispose of various types of e-waste. Further information on managing e-waste can be found on the EPA's "Managing e-waste" website pages.



Solar PV retailer (business)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/ regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.
Registered with Energy Safe Victoria as a Registered Electrical Contractor .	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a solar PV retailer is also a registered electrical contractor the entity is subject to the Electrical Safety Act 1998. Registered electrical contractors are obliged to provide safety certificates to parties for whom electrical work is carried out. While registration as a Registered Electrical Contractor is not a mandatory requirement for the provision of electrical services, it places greater responsibility on the retailer to ensure worker and customer safety.
Main business location listed as "Victoria" according to the Australian Government's Australian Business Register .	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key element to the Solar Homes Program concerns driving job creation with strong local content and industry development to build local supply chains. Prioritising businesses with a main business location of Victoria contributes to achieving this. As at 1 June 2019, approximately 58 signatories to the Clean Energy Council's Code of Conduct list their main business location as Victoria.
Product manufacturer, supplier, retailer and/ or installer offers end-of-life management program with service provider/s certified to "AS/NZS 5377: 2013".	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Solar Homes Program aims to support Victoria's emerging circular economy by encouraging best practice approaches and outcomes for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle. "AS/NZS 5377:2013" establishes Australia's best practice benchmark for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Future eligibility and installation requirements will be updated periodically. In particular, Solar Homes recognises the national stewardship approach underway for PV products and materials at the end of their life-cycle.
Provide solar PV system owners with a financial performance estimate.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically, consumers purchase solar PV systems to reduce their electricity bills. However, under current Australian Standards, system owners are only required to receive an electricity performance estimate with no consideration of estimated cost savings. Greater transparency of the financial benefits of installing solar PV systems empowers consumers to make informed decisions.

Solar Hot Water Rebate

Over the course of the Solar Homes Program, the solar hot water rebate will assist 60,000 households to drive down their energy bills.

The solar hot water rebate is suitable for households seeking to replace their old hot water system, and keen to take up solar where solar panels might not be suitable, or for households that already have solar panels installed.

Typical households can save hundreds of dollars per year on their bills.

We are providing up to \$1,000 as a point of sale discount on solar hot water systems for 6,000 households each year. The solar hot water rebates apply to all solar hot water systems that meet the safety and quality standards contained in this Notice to Market.

The solar hot water rebate is available for installations that replace an existing hot water system which is at least three years old.

The solar hot water rebate is not available to new build homes (new Class 1 buildings).

Solar Victoria has also established a process for emergency hot water installations, so Victorians don't have to wait if their system has broken down. For more information on the process for emergency solar hot water installations, please visit the Solar Victoria website: www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-hot-water-rebate.

Solar Victoria will continue to consult with industry to ensure Victorians are benefitting from this aspect of the program.



Solar Hot Water Rebate

Product, Retailer and Workforce Requirements

Solar hot water systems		
Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Solar hot water system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed on the Clean Energy Regulator's register of solar hot water heaters. Listed on the Essential Services Commission's register of products. Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Solar Hot Water products List. Minimum 5-year warranty on all major components, listed as: <p>Solar hot water major components</p> <p>Solar collector (any component in the solar collector including, but not limited to, manifold collectors, evacuated tubes, flat plate collectors, collector frames).</p> <p>Heat exchanger, storage tank gas booster.</p> <p>Heat pump major components</p> <p>Storage tank, compressor, evaporator, condenser, water heat exchanger, any other component that has a refrigerant.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Solar hot water installer (tradesperson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds the appropriate plumbing licence(s) issued by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA). Installation of a solar water heater or heat pump water heater must be in accordance with the <i>Plumbing Regulations 2018</i>, the National Construction Code Volume 3 (Plumbing Code of Australia), and relevant standards. A compliance certificate must be issued to the person who engaged the plumber for plumbing work valued at \$750 or more and all gas installations affecting gas pipes. Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. Where electrical work has occurred, a certificate of electrical safety is issued. Has attained the "VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry" accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. Has attained the "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attained "22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" accredited course.



Solar hot water systems

Item	Mandatory	Recommended
Other on-site solar hot water workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attained the "VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry" accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021. Has attained the "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attained "22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" accredited course.
Solar hot water system retailer (business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation all workers engaged to install solar PV systems have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)" training unit certification. Mandatory from 1 January 2021 "CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card). Compliance with the Victorian Government's <u>ban on electronic waste to landfill</u>. No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main business location listed as "Victoria" according to the Australian Government's <u>Australian Business Register</u>.

Rationale

Solar Hot Water Rebate

Solar hot water systems		
Item	Eligibility Status	Notes
Listed on the Clean Energy Regulator's register of solar hot water heaters .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with the Clean Energy Regulator confirms that such systems comply with AS/NZS 2712 – and may be subject to a product certification audit and compliance regime. Listing is currently a requirement under the federal government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES).
Listed on the Essential Services Commission's register of products .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration with the Essential Services Commission confirms that such systems comply with AS/NZS 2712 – and includes efficiency modelling in addition to the Clean Energy Regulator Register's efficiency modelling. Listing is a requirement under the Victorian government's Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEEC) Scheme.
Listed on Solar Victoria's Approved Solar Hot Water List .	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This listing confirms solar hot water systems meet additional requirements, above minimum industry standards, to be eligible to participate in the Solar Homes Program.
<p>Minimum 5-year warranty on all major components, listed as:</p> <p>Solar hot water major components Solar collector (any component in the solar collector including but not limited to manifold collector, evacuated tubes, flat plate collector, collector frame).</p> <p>Heat exchanger, storage tank gas booster.</p> <p>Heat pump major components Storage tank, compressor, evaporator, condenser, water heat exchanger, any other component that has a refrigerant.</p>	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the best outcome for consumers, a minimum 5-year warranty is an explicit mandatory requirement of the Solar Homes scheme.



Photo credit: Apricus Australia

Solar hot water system installer (tradesperson)

Item	Eligibility Status	Notes
Holds the appropriate plumbing licence(s) issued by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the <i>The Building Act 1993</i> and the <i>Plumbing Regulations 2018</i>, installation of a solar hot water/ heat pump hot water system must be done by a licensed plumber with the relevant qualifications.
Installation of a solar water heater or heat pump water heater must be in accordance with the <i>Plumbing Regulations 2018</i> , the <i>National Construction Code Volume 3 (Plumbing Code of Australia)</i> , and relevant standards.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest version of the <i>National Construction Code Volume 3 (Plumbing Code of Australia)</i> applies.
A compliance certificate must be issued to the person who engaged the plumber for plumbing work valued at \$750 or more and all gas installations affecting gas pipes.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The value of plumbing work is the total cost of materials and labour, prior to any rebates having been applied.
Has no prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.

Rationale

Solar Hot Water Rebate

Solar hot water system installer (tradesperson)		
Item	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. • A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union, the Clean Energy Council, the Plumbing Pipes Trades and Employee Union, Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. • Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.
Has attained the <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. • Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. • Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. • Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/construction induction training, first aid and working at heights.

Other on-site solar hot water system workers (apprentice, trade assistant, etc.)

Item	Eligibility Status	Notes
Has attained the <u>"VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry"</u> accredited unit of competency. Mandatory from 1 January 2021.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Work safely in the solar industry" is a solar-specific safety training unit including customised working at heights, lockout and energisation requirements, identifying and reporting on asbestos, etc. • A sector advisory group, led by the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, including WorkSafe, Solar Victoria, the Electrical Trades Union, the Clean Energy Council, the Plumbing Pipes Trades and Employee Union, Master Plumbers, the National Electrical and Communications Association and multiple solar retailers, identified a skills gap in the solar industry and developed this training unit. • Completion of "Work safely in the solar industry" is a work, health and safety control measure.
Has attained the <u>"CPCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry"</u> accredited unit of competency (White Card/Construction Induction Card).	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White card training sets out requirements for performing safe work practices, identifying risks and satisfying work requirements. • Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 state that construction induction training must be undertaken by workers engaged in construction and the installation of electricity services. • Completion of white card training is a work, health and safety risk control measure.
Has attained <u>"22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry"</u> accredited course.	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry" is an accredited training program and provides vocational outcomes for persons wishing to gain the skills and knowledge required for the safe installation of solar systems. • Training content includes "Work safely in the solar industry" (a training unit developed and customised for the solar industry), white card/construction induction training, first aid and working at heights

Rationale

Solar Hot Water Rebate

Solar hot water system retailer (business)		
Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
<p>Confirmation all workers engaged to install solar hot water systems have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>"Work safely in the solar industry (VU22744)" training unit certification. Mandatory from 1 January 2021</u> • <u>"CPCCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry" accredited unit of competency (White Card/ Construction Induction Card).</u> 	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System retailers have a responsibility to ensure workers are appropriately trained to perform high-risk work. • Retailers must perform due diligence to ensure all workers meet the regulated and contractual requirements of participating in the Solar Homes Program.
<p>Compliance with the <u>Victorian Government's ban on electronic waste to landfill.</u></p>	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victorian Government has banned e-waste from landfill in Victoria, effective 1 July 2019. E-waste is growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia, and it contains both valuable and hazardous materials that can be recovered when they reach the end of their working life. • The <u>Waste Management Policy (e-waste)</u> was approved by the Executive Council on 26 June 2018 and gazetted on 28 June 2018. The Victorian Government Gazette e-waste order can be found on pages 1457 to 1463. • E-waste describes any device which requires an electro-magnetic current (including anything with a plug, cord or battery) to operate and includes all solar products at the end of their useful life i.e. panels, inverter an energy storage equipment. • Sustainability Victoria lists locations to dispose of various types of e-waste. • Further information on managing e-waste can be found on the EPA's <u>"Managing e-waste" website pages.</u>

Solar hot water system retailer (business)

Requirement	Eligibility Status	Notes
No prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (or equivalent legislation/regulations in other Australian jurisdictions) resulting in a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt in the past three years.	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work. Confirming compliance with relevant occupational health and safety acts and regulations aims to ensure that the health and safety of employees and the public are not put at risk by work activities.
Main business location listed as "Victoria" according to the Australian Government's Australian Business Register .	Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key element to the Solar Homes Program concerns driving job creation with strong local content and industry development to build local supply chains. Prioritising businesses with a main business location of Victoria contributes to achieving this commitment.





Rebate Releases

The Solar Homes Program has been overwhelmingly popular and Victorians have jumped at the opportunity to reduce their energy bills and do their bit for the environment.

The availability of rebates will continue to be communicated via the Solar Victoria website to ensure information transparency and confidence for Victorians.

The Victorian Government has confirmed the number and value of Solar Homes Program rebates for the period between 1 July – 31 December 2020, with a minimum of 5,400 solar PV rebates released each month.

Solar Victoria will work closely with stakeholders to communicate the availability of rebates and closely monitor their demand. Monthly or fortnightly releases may be considered to manage the availability of rebates to effectively support industry.

Solar Victoria will communicate the number of rebates available from 1 January 2021 through an update to this Notice to Market.

Solar Homes Program – Other rebate releases

Rebate Type	Rebate quantity July - December 2020
Solar PV systems for owner-occupiers and community housing	32,500
Renters	1,000
Solar Hot Water	3,000
Batteries	500

Pricing

The Solar Homes Program provides the residential solar industry in Victoria with certainty on volumes, quality and price. In this context the Solar Homes Program expects reputable, progressive operators to find efficiencies and deliver continued reductions in the prices of fully installed solar PVs and batteries consistent with the price reductions that have been seen over recent years, while also maintaining or improving quality and customer experience.

The forward profile for solar PV and battery rebate prices under the Solar Homes Program is set out in the table below. The rebate price is the maximum rebate that will be paid.

Solar Homes – rebate amounts (\$)	
	July - December 2020
Solar PV	1,850
Batteries	4,174
Solar Hot Water	1,000

Notes: the rebate price is the maximum value of the rebate that will be paid to a household.

Loans

The Solar Homes Program loan complements the solar panel rebate. Homeowners applying for the solar panel rebate will have the option to take a fee-free and interest-free loan equivalent to the rebate amount. The loan will be repaid over four years in 48 equal monthly instalments payable in arrears.

Once granted eligibility for a rebate, the applicant will only be eligible for a fee-free and interest-free loan subject to the positive benefit assessment by the solar retailer i.e. the installed system generates a positive cash flow for the household after monthly loan repayments.

Loan recipients experiencing financial hardship can contact Solar Victoria for assistance. Loans have been available to eligible owner-occupiers since 1 July 2019.

Interest-free loans to complement the rental property rebate will be available to eligible property owners from 1 July 2020.

Owners will have the option to seek a contribution for the loan repayment from the tenant, up to 50 per cent, through a signed agreement. Any costs over and above the rebate/loan amount must be borne by the owner.

By entering into the Loan Contract, the loan customer acknowledges that:

- the terms of the Loan Contract form a legally enforceable contract on those terms; and,
- if there is a breach of the terms of the Loan Contract, the loan customer must pay any enforcement expenses of DELWP.

Training and Business Development

Training

Creating a safer solar industry through subsidised, specialised training.

Solar Victoria will invest \$9 million over the life of the Solar Homes Program to deliver a subsidised, comprehensive training and workforce development package, to support the ongoing development of the Victorian solar industry.

The first accredited training course to roll out from this package, “22515VIC Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry”, comprises five training units (see table below), including the newly developed training unit “VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry”.

This is an ideal opportunity for solar businesses to upskill their workers for free, as all Solar Victoria workers who carry out installations are eligible for a fully-funded place in the course. This includes installers, apprentices and trade assistants.

Mandatory requirements

To create a minimum safety standard across the Solar Homes Program, all workers on the tools will need to complete the accredited training unit “VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry” by 1 January 2021.

To access other units in the free safety course, workers must complete the training unit “VU22744 Work safely in the solar industry” first. Any workers who don’t already have a White Card must also complete free White Card training by 30 June 2020.

The course and individual training units will roll out throughout TAFEs and other training organisations across metropolitan and regional Victoria from March 2020. Refer to solar.vic.gov.au/training for further details.

Solar Victoria recommends that all tradespersons, apprentices and trade assistants undertake training as early as possible.

Course in Working Safely in the Solar Industry (22515VIC)

Training Unit Code	Training Unit Name	Program Requirements
VU22744	Work Safely in the Solar Industry (pre-requisite for all other units in the course)	Mandatory completion for all workers carrying out installations in the Solar Homes Program by 1 January 2021.
CPCCWHS1001	Prepare to Work Safely in the Construction Industry (White Card)	Mandatory completion for all workers carrying out installations in the Solar Homes Program by 30 June 2020.
HLTAID003	Provide First Aid	Recommended completion for all workers carrying out installations in the Solar Homes Program.
CPCCCM2010B	Work Safely at Heights	Recommended completion for all workers carrying out installations in the Solar Homes Program.
CPCCWHS2001	Apply WHS Requirements, Policies and Procedures in the Construction Industry	Recommended completion for all workers carrying out installations in the Solar Homes Program.



Business Development

Small Business Support Packages

As part of our commitment to developing the solar industry, we've partnered with Small Business Victoria to provide business mentoring to retailers and installers participating in the Solar Homes Program.

What's on offer?

We are offering fully-funded Business Mentoring Packages, made up of 90-minute consultations with mentors from the Small Business Mentoring Service (SBMS). These mentors are highly experienced business people, who aim to help solar providers maximise their opportunities and plan for business growth.

SMBS mentors can help you create a long-term strategy and provide confidential support on a range of topics such as managing your cashflow, risk minimisation strategies, marketing to consumers and planning for growth.

To get the most out of these free mentoring sessions, we've put together two packages to choose from:

- Small package: 2 x 90 minute sessions (3 hours); or
- Large package: 4 x 90 minute sessions (6 hours)

To be eligible to register for a free package, your business must be a retailer or installer participating in the Solar Homes Program.



To make a booking, go to:

www.solar.vic.gov.au/mentoring

