

Solar for rentals. It's a win-win!

Benefits for both rental providers and renters with a solar panel rebate of up to \$1,850 for rental properties, plus the option for an interest-free loan.



Why install solar panels (PV) on your rental?



Save upfront on your solar PV system



Improve the value of your rental



Help your renters reduce their energy costs



Help create solar industry jobs

About the rebate

We are providing a rebate of up to \$1,850 for eligible rental providers to reduce the cost of installing a solar panel system on a maximum of two rental properties each financial year, subject to a Solar Homes Landlord-Tenant Agreement being signed.

You can reduce your upfront cost even further by applying for an interest-free loan to match the rebate amount.

Rental providers can save thousands of dollars and will benefit through the improvement to their rental property.

Renters benefit through reduced energy bills and an average rental household can save hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills.

Eligibility for a rebate

Victorian rental providers are eligible to receive a rebate for their rental property if:

- » their renters have a combined household income of under \$180,000 per year (based on any of the last two year's taxable income)
- » the property is valued at under \$3 million and does not already have solar panels (PV) installed
- » there has been no prior participation in the Solar Homes Program for that address*
- » a Solar Homes Landlord-Tenant Agreement is signed by the landlord and all renters
- » the property is currently tenanted with a rental agreement in place.

*Our Customer Service team can confirm if a property has previously participated in the Solar Homes Program.

Want to add an interest-free loan?

To further reduce costs rental providers can apply for an interest-free loan equivalent to their rebate amount up to \$1,850.

The loan is required to be repaid over four years and rental providers are ultimately responsible for the repayments, even if a co-contribution arrangement is in place.

Eligibility for an interest-free loan

To be eligible for an interest-free loan, a landlord will need to provide a satisfactory credit report that is less than 12 months old.

Information on how to complete a free credit report can be found at moneysmart.gov.au

Please be aware that a credit report can take up to 10 days to be supplied.

Interest free loan repayment options

There are two options for loan repayments:

1. A landlord can make the full monthly loan repayment; or
2. The landlord and renter can agree to a co-contribution model* where the renter contributes up to 50 per cent of the monthly repayment.

*If the renter agrees to co-contribution, the percentage of their contribution must be agreed upfront, must be paid directly to the landlord and should not be altered after the loan has been established.

Renters who co-contribute do so for the four-year life of the loan or until they vacate the property, whichever is earlier. Costs relating to the installation of the system cannot be recouped by increasing the rent or taken from a renter's bond when they vacate the property. Subsequent renters will not be party to any repayment agreement.

How to apply

Step 1

Understand the rebate and engage your renters

Before you begin installing a solar panel (PV) system, you should be sure that you [understand the rebate process](#), download the relevant Solar Homes Landlord-Tenant Agreement and ensure all parties understand and agree to the terms and conditions of installing solar on the property.

You will need to lodge the Landlord-Tenant agreement with your rebate eligibility application, so we recommend completing this before you apply for program eligibility.

Step 2

Get a quote from a Solar Homes authorised retailer

Once you have done some research and decided that a solar system is right for you, you will need to speak to a Solar Homes authorised retailer about the system that best suits the needs of your rental property.

When the retailer submits your quote to the program you will receive an email notification.

Click on the link in the email to begin your application and confirm your eligibility.

Step 3

Completing the application

To complete your application, you will need to provide the following:

- » proof of property ownership
- » a completed Landlord-Tenant Agreement
- » a satisfactory credit report (if opting for an interest-free loan)
- » proof of identity

Use the checklist below to ensure you have everything you need before you begin the application process.

- A copy of your quote**
- A copy of the completed and signed Landlord-Tenant Agreement, including annexure A and B**
- A copy of the Council Rates Notice from the last 12 months for the installation address.**
Note: Rates notices which list the property in the name of a Trust, Superannuation Fund or Business cannot be accepted.
- A copy of the Landlord's Credit Report Credit report (if opting in for a loan)**
Note: Solar Victoria cannot accept password protected documents.
- Proof of identity**
You will need to enter the details from **any 2** of the following forms of ID:
 - Driver's licence
 - Medicare card
 - Australian passport
 - Australian birth certificate
 - Foreign passport with a valid Australian Visa.
 - Immicard

You'll need to make sure the names on both ID documents are the same. Once you are comfortable that you have all the documents listed above you can apply for eligibility.

Once your application is completed, you will receive an email confirming your eligibility. Hold on to this as you will need to show it to your installer when your system is installed.

Step 4

Arrange your installation

Contact your retailer to confirm that you're proceeding with their quote and to book the installation with them. On the day of installation, your installer is required to scan the QR code contained in your eligibility confirmation email.

Once installation is complete, pay the retailer the amount you owe them. This is the total amount minus any deductions, including the rebate and the loan (if applicable). We'll pay the remainder.

Following your installation, you will receive an email from Solar Victoria confirming the start date for repayments on your interest-free loan (if applicable).

Contact us

You can find more information on the program at www.solar.vic.gov.au or call our Customer Service team on 1300 376 393 (during business hours).



If you'd like to speak to us in your language you can access free phone translation services by calling the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning 2020

Disclaimer

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

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format:

Please contact Solar Victoria at comms@team.solar.vic.gov.au

This document is also available on the internet at solar.vic.gov.au