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| **Build Better Homes (Roadshows for the Construction Industry)** |

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| Acknowledgment  We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.  We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond. |
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Contents

[1. What is “Build Better Homes (Roadshows for the Construction Industry)” 2](#_Toc204604614)

[2. Who can apply? 2](#_Toc204604615)

[3. Who cannot apply? 3](#_Toc204604616)

[4. What might be funded? 3](#_Toc204604617)

[5. What will not be funded? 3](#_Toc204604618)

[6. What are the funding details? 4](#_Toc204604619)

[7. What are the assessment criteria? 4](#_Toc204604620)

[8. What supporting documents will need to be provided? 5](#_Toc204604621)

[9. What are the funding conditions? 5](#_Toc204604622)

[10. What is the application process? 6](#_Toc204604623)

[11. Additional information 7](#_Toc204604624)

[12. What is the notification process? 7](#_Toc204604625)

[13. Key dates 7](#_Toc204604626)

[14. Checklist 7](#_Toc204604627)

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## What is “Build Better Homes (Roadshows for the Construction Industry)”

Solar Victoria operates one of the largest sustainability and renewable energy programs in the country, accelerating uptake of solar and electrification in Victorian homes. Solar Victoria delivers the Victorian Government’s flagship Solar Homes program, a $1.3billion investment over 10 years to support hundreds of thousands of Victorians to participate in the renewable energy transition. It also develops policy including legislation, regulation and program specifications to support the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program – Australia's largest energy efficiency obligation program. The [Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades/about) joined Solar Victoria in June 2024, bringing together two of the Government’s most important household energy transition programs. The Electrification Training and Workforce Development Program will build upon Solar Victoria’s significant $12m workforce development and training program which ran from March 2019 to June 2025. This new initiative is part of a $5 million, 3-year investment in subsidised training initiatives for industry participants, such as plumbers, electricians and construction workers, to develop the skills needed to support residential electrification, and comply with regulated requirements, such as the National Construction Code.

The *“Build Better Homes (Roadshows for the Construction Industry)”* initiative will provide grants to eligible organisations to deliver events for the construction industry such as workshops, forums and roadshows. The events will grow workforce capacity and skills to meet the higher consumer demand for electrical appliances driven by the government’s gas substitution reforms, including new building electrification and minimum energy efficiency standards commencing in 2027 for new builds, rentals and water heater replacements. Additional expected outcomes are listed below.

Construction industry participants include builders, tradespersons, and allied workers (e.g. home energy assessors, designers, quantity surveyors, etc).

The Victorian Government is funding these grants to ensure Victorian buildings – residential and commercial - are safer, more comfortable and healthier to be in - while saving consumers hundreds of dollars a year on energy bills and cutting emissions. These changes introduce new building electrification regulations and set minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes as well as improve gas security by reducing residential demand and prioritising supply for harder to electrify businesses and industry that require gas. It will achieve the following outcomes:

* Support the construction industry to comply with new regulations such as:
  + All-electric connections for new homes (effective from January 2024)
  + National Construction Code 2022, especially 7-star and whole-of-home requirements (effective from May 2024)
  + New building electrification and minimum energy efficiency standards commencing in 2027 for new builds, rentals and water heater replacements
* Building awareness of ‘big picture’ issues such as national progress towards ‘Zero energy (and carbon) ready buildings’ by 2028
* Increase the skills and knowledge of the construction industry to design and construct increasingly energy efficient homes
* Build industry capacity to design and construct increasingly energy efficient homes
* Raise industry awareness of design and construction environmental sustainability trends, including the transition towards net zero homes, home electrification and on-site energy generation
* Increase understanding of new and emerging technologies.

## Who can apply?

The following organisations can apply for funding:

* Victorian training organisations (including accredited (via ASQA/ VRQA) and non-accredited) that can demonstrate the following:
* A registered company with an A.B.N
* Financially solvency (and be prepared to demonstrate financial solvency)
* Have a suitable event facility in Victoria (or able to source an appropriate venue)
* Have demonstrated capacity to provide online access where available and suitable
* Experience in delivering similar roadshows/workshops/forums/webinars to the building and construction industry
* Capacity to deliver industry-relevant home energy efficiency-related events
* Capacity to administer events, including managing enrolments, participant queries, issuing certificates, ensuring participants are eligible in accordance with grant conditions, program reporting
* Experience and capacity to promote and advertise events to the construction industry and generate an ongoing pipeline of participants.

## Who cannot apply?

The following organisations and individuals cannot apply for funding:

* individuals
* government agencies
* local government authorities.

## What might be funded?

The following types of activities are eligible for funding:

* Industry forums using industry leaders and experts to brief the sector on economic and consumer trends influencing the industry as well as current and upcoming regulatory reforms
* Face to face workshops looking at the challenges and opportunities shaping Victoria’s building and construction sector allowing participants an opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and share how these reforms can be rolled out in practice
* Events that are just-in-time (available when needed), flexible, recognised by industry as credible and valuable, and applicable to the design and construction of energy efficient homes – able to be delivered to the construction industry
* Presentations that are concise, engaging and of a high standard
* Events in locations where there is demonstrated demand, strong likelihood of a participant enrolment pipeline and a demonstrated history of successful delivery of similar events
* Online and in-person participation options e.g. forums have the ability for remote audience dial in
* High quality and extensive promotion and advertising activities to maximise uptake of training
* Events available to Victorians or those employed by Victorian businesses

Non-financial funding may also be provided in the form of access to existing construction industry training resources developed by Solar Victoria. Resources are available upon request.

**Who is the target audience for the** **training?**

Providers must target the following eligible participant cohorts:

* Individuals based in Victoria; or representatives of businesses that undertake work in Victoria (relevant to the design and construction of energy efficient homes), such as:
* Practitioners registered with the Plumbing and Building Commission (BPC), including building inspectors, building surveyors, residential builders, draftspersons, project managers and quantity surveyors.
* Trades and professions related to the energy efficiency performance of homes, including site managers, construction managers, home energy assessors, architects, electricians, plumbers, front-of-house/ client-facing workers (e.g. salespersons, designers, etc).
* Owner-builders.
* Participants undertaking construction-related study (eg. Cert IV in Building and Construction, Diploma of Building and Construction (Building), etc).
* Fourth year apprentices (in the construction industry).
* Other cohorts with a demonstratable link to the Victorian construction industry who play a role in the design and/ or construction of energy efficient homes and/ or improve the capacity of the industry to design and/ or construct energy efficient homes.

## What will not be funded?

The *Build Better Homes (Roadshows for the Construction Industry)* initiative will not fund the following activities:

* the purchase of land
* routine or ongoing maintenance activities
* activities that have already started
* where duplicate services are in operation or planned for in a targeted community
* recurrent operating costs, for example rent and utility costs, and/or activities establishing expectations of ongoing funding
* activities or events located outside the State of Victoria
* resources that has not been quality checked and approved by Solar Victoria
* events and resources that do not acknowledge Solar Victoria as the funding source (branding guidelines will be provided by Solar Victoria).

## What are the funding details?

The total funding available is up to $200,000 (ex-GST) for events delivered between 1 September 2025 to 31 May 2026 (or until funds are exhausted).

Subject to successful evaluation, multiple providers may be funded to deliver events in parallel, up to the maximum available funding.

Payments will be made up to 31 May 2026. All delivery and certification activities must be completed by 15 May 2026.

An up-front payment amount may be paid to cover the cost of set up and promotion. Ongoing grant payments will be paid based solely on the number of participants who successfully attended the events for the construction industry such as workshops, forums and webinar roadshows.

## What are the assessment criteria?

Applications will be checked for eligibility to make sure that the applicant and their activity are eligible for funding. Eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria listed below. Each criterion is given a percentage weighting to indicate its relative importance in the assessment process. Applications should address all relevant criteria.

**Criterion 1 – Event suitability and relevance 30%**

* Applications must demonstrate that the events will:
  + Reference regulated requirements, such as the National Construction Code and new building electrification and minimum energy efficiency standards commencing in 2027 for new builds, rentals and water heater replacements
  + Support residential electrification and by transitioning to net zero homes, including reference to government support and subsidies such as Solar Homes rebates, Victorian Energy Upgrade certificates, Small-scale Technology Certificates, etc .
* Increase the skills and knowledge of the construction industry to transition to the design and construction of increasingly efficient homes
* Boost industry capacity to design and construct energy efficient homes
* Raise industry awareness of design and construction environmental sustainability trends, including the transition towards net zero homes and home electrification
* Raise industry awareness of new and emerging technologies
* Have a defined scope and duration
* Be structured to accommodate the targeted cohorts. For example, information presentations should be concise, accessible, flexible, just-in-time and applicable to work practises
* Presented in a manner that is concise, engaging and presented at a high standard (to be approved by Solar Victoria)
* Be in demand and valued by industry
* Be credible and validated (e.g., the content has been developed with due diligence).
* Applicants are not required to deliver all of the following streams. However, doing applications that can satisfy the following will be considered favourably:
  + Face to face events in Metropolitan Melbourne
  + Face to face events in Regional Victoria
  + Webinars

**Criterion 2 – Current and past delivery capacity and performance 20%**

* The applicant must demonstrate that they have:
* Experience successfully delivering forums, workshops, roadshow or similar events to industry. For example, applicants may specify the number of years the events have been delivered, the total number of participants who have completed the course, delivery mode/s, etc
* The capacity to deliver the events, including detailing the resources (including physical resources and suitably qualified and experienced trainers) available to satisfy delivery
* The capacity to develop a delivery schedule, including listing the number of cohorts expected
* An approach to delivering to participants in regional Victoria.

**Criterion 3 – Capacity to administer and manage events 15%**

* The applicant must demonstrate that they can administer and manage the events. This includes the capacity to process enrolments, receive and respond to participant queries in a timely manner, issue certificates, ensure participants are eligible (as per grant guidelines), and report on participation metrics.

**Criterion 4 – Capacity to promote uptake 25%**

* The applicant is obliged to source cohorts to attend the events. The application must:
* Provide an indicative marketing strategy or plan that demonstrates how the events will be promoted and how cohorts will be sourced
* Demonstrate that the organisation can promote the events to a significant number of potential cohorts. For instance, the organisation may have members or other existing contacts to target for the benefit of maximising participant uptake
* Have the capacity to develop advertising and promotional materials (any and all advertising and promotional materials must be approved by Solar Victoria before public dissemination).

**Criterion 5 – Value add-on 10%**

* The applicant may demonstrate additional value they can add to their application. For example:
  + Provide free access to online learning resources for event participants
  + Handouts or other hard copy resources
  + Equipment discount vouchers or samples
  + Free access to future events (e.g. breakfasts, conferences, awards, etc).

## What supporting documents will need to be provided?

Please submit the following document/s with your application:

1. Outline of the proposed delivery approach, including details of what is to be provided including content and learning outcomes.
2. Indicative delivery schedule, including the proposed number of participants and locations for delivery.
3. Budget breakdown for each stream and supporting resourcing requirements
4. Indicative marketing strategy/ plan for targeting potential participants, including the means of doing so (e.g., electronic direct mail, radio, paid social media, member newsletters, etc).

## What are the funding conditions?

**Quality control**

Successful applicants must provide and maintain a consistent and high quality in both presentation materials and equipment and resources. Solar Victoria may request evidence of event collateral and may request reasonable amendments to delivered/developed content.

**Funding agreements**

Successful applicants must enter into a Victorian Common Funding Agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. Information about the Victorian Common Funding Agreement is available on <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>

The activity does not include using the Funding for political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

**Legislative and regulatory requirements**

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

* *The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)*
* *The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)*
* *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

**Tax implications**

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form ‘Statement by a Supplier” so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

**Acknowledging the Victorian Government’s support**

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government’s support and promotional guidelines (<https://www2.deeca.vic.gov.au/grants>) will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

**Payments**

Payments will be made as long as:

* the funding agreement has been signed by both parties;
* grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected;
* other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation. Recipients will be required to provide a separate evaluation report at the end of the contract using the template provided by Solar Victoria unless an alternative format has been pre-approved by Solar Victoria. Additionally, providers agree to take part in a whole of program evaluation conducted by Solar Victoria at the completion of the program. Providers must inform all participants that Solar Victoria may contact them directly during the evaluation of the program.

**Privacy**

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DEECA Privacy Policy online at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy.

Requests for access to information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing [Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au).

## What is the application process?

Applications are submitted online using the Grants Online portal.

To apply, go to the grant program web page [www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open](https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open) and click on the ‘Start New Application’ button. To return to a saved draft application, click on the ‘Access Saved Application’ button.

**Attaching required documents:**

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Please quote this number in all communications with the department relating to your application.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application you can email them to industrytraining@team.solar.vic.gov.au, quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

Make sure your application is submitted by 4.00pm on Thursday 21 August 2025**.**

**Note:** No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Additional information

Additional information is available at the program web page [www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open](http://www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open)

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| If you require assistance submitting your application online, email grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au. |

## What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

## Key dates

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| Applications open | 7 August 2025 |
| Applications close | 21 August 2025 |
| Applicants notified (indicative) | 28 August 2025 |
| Activities commence (indicative) | 1 September 2025 |
| Activities completed | 15 May 2026 |
| Acquittal reports submitted | 31 May 2026 |

## Checklist

Read these guidelines and the information about this grant program at [www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open](https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/training-and-workforce-development-grants-open) before applying and complete the following checklist.

Have you:

\* read these guidelines carefully?

\* checked if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant funding?

\* checked if your activity is eligible for this grant funding?

\* checked that you would be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in delivery of your activity?

\* prepared the appropriate supporting documents?

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