



How Solar Power Works

Solar electricity systems generate clean electricity using sunlight. Solar panels convert sunlight into Direct Current (DC) electricity, which is converted into the 240V electricity that powers our buildings by an inverter.

Any surplus electricity your system generates is exported back to the main electricity grid. Your electricity provider purchases this energy back from you. So, if you generate more electricity than you use, that excess power will turn into credits on your power bill.

Why Solar Power?

Over 90% of Australia's electricity is sourced from fossil fuels.

Australia is the worst green house gas polluter per capita on Earth. By installing a solar system (and reducing our use of power) we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help reduce the impacts of global warming and provide a safer, cleaner world for our grandchildren.

Solar Power around Australia

During the previous Government rebate scheme (2007 to 2009), 120,000 solar systems were installed on Australian roofs. The new solar credits scheme is now in place. It's a very good time to buy solar.

The Victorian Gov't Premium Feed In Tariff pays \$0.66/ Kwhr for excess power generated from your roof

Bendigo Solar Workshops

The Bendigo Sustainability Group in Partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services will be presenting workshops for those interested in the whys, whats and hows of Solar Power ... **please contact**

Where to go for Solar Power in Bendigo



Bendigo Sustainability Group Bulk Buy

1.5 Kw System (Standard install approximately \$6,500 includes RECs)
Email: pv@bendigosustainability.org.au
Phone: 0417 561 903
www.bendigosustainability.org.au



Central Victoria Solar City Household Solar Electricity Package

2KW system, 10% off standard Origin Energy price, access to a trialled gross feed in tariff, participate in research.
Phone: 03 5479 1900
www.centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au



Bendigo EcoLiving Website

Go directly to any of the many solar installers in Bendigo. To make the search easy, visit the Bendigo EcoLiving Centre directory at www.bendigoecoliving.org.au and search under solar power.

Which energy retailer should I choose when I have a solar system?

The Moreland Energy Foundation recently released a document that compared the rates paid for the renewable energy generated and service provided to solar system owners. The top three were Origin Energy, AGL Energy and TRU energy.

We recommend a thorough look through the detailed analysis MEFL undertook at www.mefl.com.au. Search under 'Victoria's Premium Feed-in Tariff - comparison of offers.'

HOW TO GET INTO SOLAR POWER IN BENDIGO

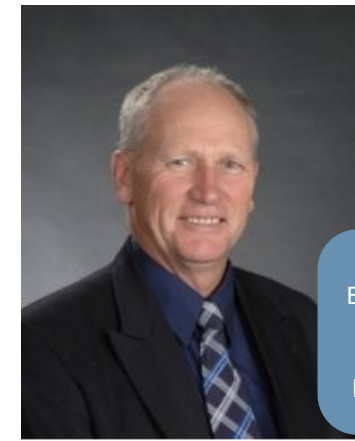


"At BCHS we are concerned about the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our community. Our solar electricity system is one more step on a long and exciting journey towards a sustainable future. Join us and help create a brighter Bendigo."

- Sue Clarke, CEO BCHS



Bought to you by Bendigo Community Health Services and the Bendigo Sustainability Group



Many thanks to
 BCHS Board Member,
 BSG Vice President
 and instigator of this
 project Colin Lambie!

SOLAR POWER: FOR A BRIGHTER BENDIGO

The Bendigo Sustainability Group launches solar bulk buy #2



The new bulk buy is officially up and running. See the back of this brochure for details on registering interest.

The 2009 solar bulk buy was organised in partnership with the Strathfieldsaye District Community Enterprise and Energy Matters. 120 Bendigo homes were fitted with solar systems. This added up to 117kW of Solar Energy and 2116 tonnes of CO2 abated. This is

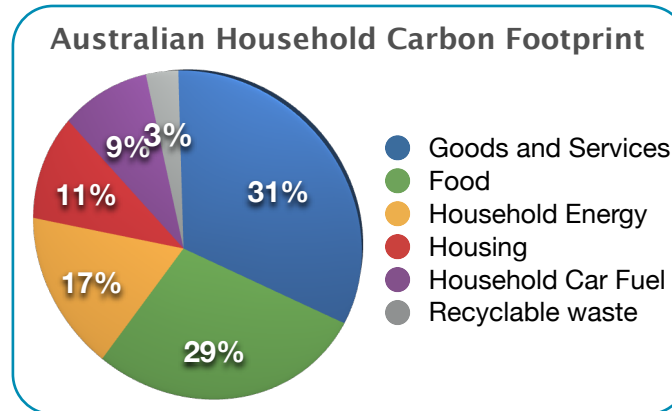
equivalent to taking around 650 cars off the road over 25 years (which is the operational life of the systems).

Make sure to be a BSG member. It's cheap as chips and you'll stay abreast of the latest sustainability happenings in Bendigo and support their volunteer work towards a delightful, sustainable Bendigo.

Imagine if 10% of Bendigo homes put a 1KW solar system on the roof! We'd reduce our cities carbon footprint by 13 tonnes a day and produce 13 MW hours a day of clean, renewable energy.

Is Solar Power the only answer?

No! Renewable energy is important. But according to these 2009 CSIRO figures, just 17% of our carbon footprint is due to household energy.



We can massively reduce our carbon footprint by changing our habits and behaviour. Each year, the average Australian home:

- spends \$1000 on goods and services we never or rarely use
- throws away \$616 of food
- spends \$850 on petrol for trips under 2 km
- Wastes \$1200 on household energy

We can buy local, buy green, buy less, live more, save money & help turn climate change around.

Bendigo Community Health Services installs a 2KW Solar Power System

Like millions of other businesses around the world, Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) is on the journey to sustainability.

In partnership with the Bendigo Sustainability Group (BSG) they recently installed a 2KW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of their Eaglehawk Office.

A 2KW PV system was installed with the following specifications:

- Panels used: Sharp 175W (NT-R5E3E)
- Inverter used: SMA Sunny Boy SB2500
- Installer: Jim Donegan of Russell Broad Electrical Contractors
- Four tonnes of Carbon Dioxide saved yearly

Internal Change for Sustainability

In 2010 a newly appointed and trained Green Team is beginning to lead the organisation towards a sustainable future through learning, planning, doing and imagining.

