



# Solar pays in Canberra



Solar pays in the fight against **climate change**.



**Solar pays in Canberra** with the nation's most generous Feed-in Tariff Scheme making it the right time to invest in solar power in Canberra.



**Solar pays in Canberra** with plans to extend the Feed-in Tariff Scheme to large generators meaning it has never been a better time to invest in renewable energy in the ACT.



Solar pays in Canberra because the **ACT averages over 7.5 hours of sunshine** per day, outshining Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

For more information about *Australia's Solar Capital* visit [www.solarcapital.act.gov.au](http://www.solarcapital.act.gov.au)

## ACT ELECTRICITY FEED-IN TARIFF SCHEME

### What is a Feed-in Tariff?

A Feed-in Tariff rewards households and businesses that install renewable energy generation technology by paying a Premium Price for the electricity they generate. For each unit of renewable energy generated, you will be paid at a rate greater than the retail price you would usually pay to buy the same amount of energy for your use. The ACT Feed-in Tariff Scheme is based on gross generation, so you are paid for each unit of electricity that you generate.

Stage 1 of the Scheme, aimed at householders and small business, commenced on 1 March 2009 and was limited to installations up to 30KW in capacity. It is known as the Micro category.

The Government has announced an additional category of generator, the Medium category for installations up to 200KW in capacity.

Both Micro and Medium categories will now be capped at their total capacity, 15 megawatts each.

### Who can access the Scheme?

The Scheme is available to all ACT electricity customers, with the exception of non-educational Government agencies. All schools and educational institutions, both public and private, are eligible to access the Scheme.

Communal generators operated by not-for-profit community groups and Bodies Corporate will now also be eligible. If you are renting premises, you need the permission of the property owner before installing renewable generation equipment.

### What do I need to do?

For the Micro category you need to own, occupy or operate a business from a property in the ACT and install an approved form of renewable generation (at present solar or wind generation).

Groups installing Medium sized generators do not need to occupy the generator site themselves.

If you live in a flat or are under strata title, you should check with your landlord for any rules restricting placement of equipment. You will then need to enter into an agreement with your electricity retailer for them to purchase the electricity you generate.

### How long will I be assured of receiving the Premium Price?

The Micro and Medium Category payment levels are set annually by the Minister for Energy.



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When you enter into an arrangement with your electricity retailer you are guaranteed payment of the Premium Price prevailing at that time for the full 20 years of your agreement.

### What if I already have solar panels installed? Will I receive back payments?

Renewable energy generators installed prior to the Scheme's commencement date will be eligible to participate in the Scheme. **There are no back payments.**

Payment of the Premium will commence from the date on which you enter into an agreement under the Scheme. You may need to have your existing meter inspected or replaced to measure gross generation. Contact your electricity retailer for further details.

### What if I want to get out of my contract?

Purchase contracts can run up to 20 years and during this time many things can change. For example, you might move or the solar panels may be damaged and not be replaceable.

The ACT has laws on who is eligible for a feed-in tariff, the Premium Price you are guaranteed, and the basis on which you are paid.

Micro and Medium generators will need to agree all other details with their electricity retailer, including how the agreement can be changed, amended or terminated. This is a matter between you and your retailer. It is in your interest to seek legal advice on the retailer's terms before committing yourself.

### Who pays for the Scheme?

All ACT electricity bills will have a small amount added to cover the Scheme's costs.

### When will these new arrangements commence?

Amended legislation to introduce the revised Micro and Medium arrangements was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly in February 2011.

### Where can I get more information?

Your electricity retailer can advise the terms they offer and what you need to do to enter into an agreement. Your installer can also advise you on the ActewAGL Distribution and ACTPLA inspection and approval processes.

More general inquiries about the ACT Feed-in Tariff Scheme or legislation may be directed to the ACT Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water via Canberra Connect on **13 22 81** or by visiting [www.solarcapital.act.gov.au](http://www.solarcapital.act.gov.au)

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