



Solar in Schools Initiative Guidelines

During the 2006 Victorian election, the Victorian Government's policy document "Tackling Climate Change – Helping Victoria Play it's Part" committed \$5 million over four years to install solar panels on 500 schools and community buildings.

The Solar in Schools initiative supports schools and community facilities to install grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems, interactive energy monitoring systems and provide educational materials on renewable energy and energy demand.

Schools and community facilities are central to Victorian communities and provide excellent opportunities for public demonstration and education about renewable energy.

As well as cutting greenhouse gases the program will raise community awareness and provide educational activities about the benefits of renewable energy and increasing uptake of photovoltaic systems.

Specific Requirements for Schools and Community Facilities

Applicants will need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) responding to following criteria:

- > educational outcomes and curriculum links,
- > promotion and communication activities,
- > interpretation and demonstration activities,
- > accredited installation,
- > energy efficiency program in operation listing measures undertaken

An EOI form with clear guidelines and instructions on how to apply will be available on our website in mid June. Entries for Round One will be open from 1 July to 30 September.

An expert review panel will assess all applications and determine eligibility for the rebate. Successful schools will be notified within a month of the closing date. Two EOI rounds will open for each full year of the initiative.

Eligible Schools and Community Organisations

The Solar in Schools initiative is open to all Victorian schools and eligible community organisations.

For the purposes of this program, eligible community organisations are either government-owned or incorporated not-for-profit organisations. Commercial enterprises are not considered to be eligible community organisations for the purposes of the Solar in Schools

initiative.

Eligible Community Buildings

Eligible community buildings include, but are not limited to:

- > public or private schools
- > learning institutions
- > local government buildings
- > buildings used by organisations involved in conservation, environmental or community activities.

If the organisation applying for funding does not own the building on which the PV's will be installed, they must demonstrate:

- > tenure in the property for at least five years
- > permission to install the PVs and retain ownership of the PVs.

Education and Communication Activities

In addition to the PV system installation, applications will be assessed on the merit of educational and interpretive activities to be conducted.

Full details of education, extension, promotion, interpretation and demonstration activities must be provided.

The following are examples of education activities:

- > a solar energy course integrated into school curriculum
- > use of solar kits to demonstrate the technology
- > use of special instrumentation or educational computer software to monitor energy generated
- > use of videos, publications, displays etc as appropriate to the organisation.

In schools, integration of PV educational activities into the curriculum is mandatory to be eligible for the rebate.

The following are examples of communication activities:

- > media launch of the newly installed solar system
- > on-site interpretation – signage clearly communicating the project and the benefits of solar energy
- > newsletter or newspaper articles
- > website information
- > presentations to stakeholders.

Rebate

The available rebate is dependant on the size of the system installed and is offered on a sliding scale from \$3000 to \$15, 000, at \$3 per watt installed – see table below for rebate examples:

Rebate examples

System size	Installed Cost ¹	Solar in Schools	Federal Rebate ²	School Contribution
1KW	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
2KW	\$22,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$4,000
3KW	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$9,000
4KW	\$42,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$18,000
5KW	\$54,000	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$27,000

¹Installed costs are indicative only and will depend on system configuration, equipment options and other factors.

²It is unlikely that the federal rebate will be available to all schools participating in the Solar in Schools initiative.

Installation Requirements

- > A minimum installation of 1kW is required to be eligible for funding.
- > The PV system must be installed at the school or community building specified in the application.
- > Sustainability Victoria will only fund one rebate per site per organisation. Funding will not be provided for multiple installations on the same site for the one organisation.
- > The PV system interpretative display should be visible to the wider community.

Competent designer and installer

To be eligible for a rebate the applicant must be able to show that the person who will carry out the PV installation is accredited (full or provisional) for design and installation of PV systems by the Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE). Applicants should check this by accessing the list on the SV website.

Download a list of [accredited installers](#).

A licensed electrical contractor must carry out the electrical work associated with the low voltage (240V AC) wiring in the building and in the power system, in compliance with Victorian Electrical Safety Act.

Rebates will not be paid for systems that are designed or installed by contractors who do not meet these requirements.

System design and installation requirements

The power system equipment must be permanently mounted in a robust manner and “hard-wired” into the building’s electrical circuitry.

All systems, components and equipment must comply with, and be designed and installed in accordance with all relevant Australian Standards or, where such does not exist, with the relevant international standard. Australian Standards include, but are not limited to:

- > AS/NZS 3000 – Electrical installations
- > AS 4509 – Stand-alone power systems
- > AS 4086 – Secondary batteries for use with stand-alone power systems
- > AS 4777 – Grid connection of energy systems via inverters
- > AS/NZS 5033 – Installation of photovoltaic (PV) arrays
- > AS/NZS 1170 – Structural design actions; and any other standard called upon by the above or other relevant standards.

PV modules must be certified to IEC61215 or equivalent.

Further information

For technical enquiries associated with the Solar in Schools initiative please send an email to solar.schools@sustainability.vic.gov.au or visit Sustainability Victoria's website for updates at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

For general enquires please ring the Customer Service number; **1300 363 744**