

Case study:

Matthew and Declan generate their own solar power



Matthew and Declan live in a two bedroom house in The Ponds, New South Wales. They have solar panels on their rooftop, which were installed as part of the NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme (the Scheme) to encourage the uptake of renewable energy in NSW. The Scheme ended on 31 December 2016.

Matthew and Declan were in a gross metering arrangement, which meant they could not use the solar power they produced in their own home. During the Scheme's operation they received subsidised payments of 60 cents per kilowatt hour for the solar power they fed from their property into the electricity grid. From 1 January 2017, the tariff Matthew and Declan received reverted to an unsubsidised feed-in tariff (of six cents per kilowatt hour from their retailer*).

To continue to get the most out of their solar PV system, Matthew and Declan decided to switch to using the solar power they generated themselves to meet as much of their energy needs as possible. This would limit their need to use the more expensive grid electricity. They contacted their retailer and changed to a net meter that allowed them to consume the energy they generated and export any excess power they did not use to the grid. Their retailer installed a digital smart meter at no upfront cost.

The digital smart meter gives Matthew and Declan access to additional benefits, being able to obtain more accurate information on their energy consumption and costs, giving them greater control over their energy usage and helping them to save on electricity bills.

* See: www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/website/shared-files/pricing-reviews-electricity-publications-retail-offers-for-solar-bonus-scheme-customers/options-for-solar-customers-after-the-solar-bonus-scheme-ends.pdf.