



# ACT – How to get value for your solar PV system and feed-in tariffs explained

This factsheet provides information on how to maximise the value of your solar power through feed-in tariffs and the set-up of your solar power system.

## What is a feed-in tariff?

A feed-in tariff is a payment made in exchange for electricity that is fed into the electricity grid from the generation of renewable energy, such as solar PV.

## Retailer-paid feed-in tariffs

Retailers offer feed-in tariffs at different rates. Retail electricity offers may include several components such as the daily fixed charge for being connected to the network, the electricity usage charge, any discounts applied to the fixed or usage charges, and the feed-in tariff for electricity you export to the electricity grid.

## How is the retailer-paid feed-in tariff rate determined?

Retailers voluntarily offer competitive feed-in tariff rates. The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) monitors and reports annually on the costs of feed-in tariffs to retailers and consumers. As these tariffs vary between retailers, it is important to shop around for the best feed-in tariff that will meet your circumstances.

## Maximise the value of your renewable energy by shopping around

Customers have options available to them, provided by a selection of retailers across the market. To maximise the value of your solar power, you should shop around for an electricity retailer that provides the best feed-in tariff rate for your circumstances.

However, the feed-in tariff offer is only one component of your final retail electricity bill. A retail electricity offer with an attractive feed-in tariff may come with less appealing features such as higher fixed charges or less attractive usage discounts. Make sure you consider all components of the retail offer to seek out the product that best suits your circumstances.

To compare retail electricity offers, visit the Australian Energy Regulator’s independent price comparator website, [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au). This tool is used to compare energy retail costs, and provides information regarding tariffs available from retailers.

## Which feed-in tariffs are now closed to new applicants?

The ACT Government introduced a number of schemes to encourage eligible customer groups including households, community groups, and small businesses to invest in their own solar PV generation systems. These schemes were run for new connections between 1 March 2009 and 13 July 2011, and are now closed to new applicants. The feed-in tariffs offered under these schemes are listed below, with information about their capacities, and the dates they were offered.

Capacity	Cents per kWh	Dates
<10kW	50.05c per kWh	01/03/09 – 30/06/10
10-30kW	40.04c per kWh	01/03/09 – 30/06/10
<30kW	45.7c per kWh	01/07/10 – 31/05/11
30-200kW	34.27c per kWh	07/03/11 – 11/07/11
<200kW	30.16c per kWh	12/07/11 – 13/07/11

## Am I affected by the part closure of these schemes?

Customers who connected between any of the dates in this table and have been receiving feed-in tariffs will continue to receive these benefits for twenty years from their connection date (as long as your eligibility for the scheme has not changed).

Ongoing eligibility for this scheme can change when altering the capacity of your system or using other alternative energy sources, amongst other things. Speak to your retailer before making any changes to your system to ensure your eligibility is maintained.

## Do I have to change my meter?

These schemes all use gross metering. This means that you receive your feed-in tariff for all electricity that you generate from your solar panels, which is then sent to the electricity network. You then purchase all of your electricity usage. You do not have to change your meter to continue benefiting from these schemes.

There may be benefits to upgrading your meter if you do not currently receive tariffs from these schemes. There are meter options available in the market which can help you improve your electricity usage.

## Smart meters and regulation changes

On-going customers are not required to change their meters, however there may be benefits in installing a 'smart' meter (also known as a digital meter). Most customers currently have 'basic' meters (also known as accumulation meters), which can only measure total accumulated electricity usage.

A basic meter cannot tell how much you consume at a particular time, as it only measures the accumulative electricity usage. On the other hand, a smart meter measures your electricity use every 30 minutes. You can then access information about your electricity consumption via your retailer.

By monitoring household electricity consumption, solar

PV customers can better manage their electricity use and schedule consumption to maximise the use of their solar PV generated electricity, instead of unnecessarily purchasing electricity from the electricity grid.

## Make the most of your solar power

To maximise the value of your solar PV generated electricity, consider some of the following options to ensure you are using your own generated solar power before paying to use electricity from the grid. This can be done by using timers on appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines, and running these appliances during daylight hours. If heating or cooling in your household is powered by solar PV generation, consider pre-heating or pre-cooling your house to take advantage of unused solar electricity generated in daylight hours. This can be done by programming electric heating or cooling appliances to switch on early in the day, but set at a relatively conservative temperature.

## Battery storage

Batteries allow households to store solar power for use during non-daylight hours. However adding battery storage to your household may involve a high upfront cost. The overall value of investing in battery storage will differ based on the upfront cost, the retail rates available and your location.

Differences in the weather and the size of your solar PV system will determine the amount of electricity your system will generate. Smaller renewable energy systems mean less unused electricity is generated to store and use when the sun is not shining. Make sure you compare the overall benefits with the total costs before investing in battery storage, and speak to your retailer to determine if battery storage affects your eligibility for any feed-in tariffs you receive.

The [NextGen Renewable Storage Scheme](#) will see up to 5000 smart-controlled solar battery storage systems rolled out to Canberra homes and businesses.

## More information

For more information about rooftop solar and renewable energy schemes visit the Act Government's website

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/energy/cleaner-energy>

For the 2016-17 report including information about the previous schemes, visit

[https://www.environment.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/1145204/2016-17-Annual-FiT-Report-ACCESS.pdf](https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1145204/2016-17-Annual-FiT-Report-ACCESS.pdf)

To help you compare retail offers, see AER Energy Made Easy website

[www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au)

## Australian Energy Regulator

Infoline 1300 585 165

Website [www.aer.gov.au](http://www.aer.gov.au)

Energy Made Easy [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au)

## Other contacts

Indigenous Infoline 1300 303 143

For information in languages other than English call 13 1450 and ask for 1300 585 165

Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 585 165

TTY users phone 13 3677 and ask for 1300 585 165

Internet relay users connect to the National Relay Service

(<http://www.relayservice.com.au>) and ask for 1300 585 165

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