



Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme Guidelines

The Rebate

The Australian Government will provide a rebate of \$1,000 to eligible applicants to install solar and heat pump hot water systems in existing homes.

The rebate will be offered from 18 July 2007 until 31 March 2012, subject to the availability of funds.

The Australian Government reserves the right to change the rebate amount or any other aspect of these Guidelines.

Rebates are conditional on meeting all aspects outlined in these Guidelines.

Rebate Application Process

To claim a rebate, the applicant will need to submit an Application Form, which is available from www.greenhouse.gov.au/rebates

An applicant has up to three months after an eligible system is installed to submit an Application Form. Rebate applications must be made via the official application process described on the programme's website. The applicant should allow 6-8 weeks for the application to be processed.

The Application Form requires the applicant to agree that, if requested, he/she will provide evidence to support claims made in the application as part of an audit process to ensure the applicant has met all programme guidelines; for example, proof of system purchase receipts or income eligibility may be requested.

The closing date for applications will be midnight 31 March 2012 or as otherwise determined by the Australian Government. No applications will be accepted after the closing date.

Eligibility Requirements

These Guidelines in their entirety form the eligibility criteria for the programme. In order to qualify for a rebate, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they fully comply with these Guidelines.

Applicant Requirements

To be eligible to obtain a rebate:

- the applicant must be an individual aged 18 years or over;

- the applicant must be the owner or tenant of the dwelling for which the system was installed at the time the system was installed (Please note: a tenant should not install a system without approval from the owner of the dwelling.);
- the applicant must be the purchaser of the system or have written permission from the purchaser to apply for the rebate;
- the dwelling must be located in Australia and be a principal place of residence;
- the applicant's taxable family income must have been less than \$100,000 in the most recent tax year; and
- the applicant must correctly submit an Application Form within three months of system installation and agree to the terms and conditions listed on the Application Form.

Only one rebate will be granted for a single system on any given residence. In the case of multiple applications for a single system, the rebate will only be granted to the first eligible applicant.

System Requirements

To be eligible to obtain a rebate, the hot water system must:

- be installed on, or after 18 July 2007;
- be a new and complete hot water system that replaces an existing electric storage hot water system previously operational at the dwelling for more than 12 months;
- be a hot water system that is eligible for at least 20 Renewable Energy Certificates under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target at the time of installation at the installation address as verified by a Registered Agent;
- have at least a 5 year warranty;
- be installed to the relevant building standards and government requirements;
- be installed by a suitably qualified person (for example an electrician and/or plumber); and
- be fully functional and in working order.

Rebates will **not** be eligible where:

- the dwelling is not a principal place of residence (for example where the dwelling is a holiday home or a semi-permanent building);
- the dwelling is state or territory public housing or is owned by a state or territory government;
- the applicant is not an individual (for example where the applicant is a business or other organisation);
- the system replaces or is additional to an existing solar or heat pump hot water system;
- the system replaces a hot water system which was not originally designed as an electric storage hot water system; or
- the system will be used for non-domestic purposes or primarily for heating a swimming pool, spa or similar.

Final decisions regarding rebate eligibility will be made by the Australian Government.

Definitions

The following are definitions that are applied for the purpose of the rebate programme.

Principal place of residence – the applicant's address on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll or other documentation may be used in determining if a dwelling is a principal place of residence.

Applicant's taxable family income – the combined taxable income of the applicant and spouse in the most recent completed tax year. The family income test does not include income derived by any other person residing at the dwelling of the applicant. Suitable evidence of taxable family income may include the respective Notice of Assessment produced by the Australian Taxation Office.

System – a new domestic hot water system that is a complete model as listed in Schedule 7 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001*. Eligible systems must have a unique tank serial number defined by the manufacturer.

Registered Agents – Registered Agents under the programme are third parties used to verify specific system details as part of the eligibility verification process. Registered Agents are determined by the Australian Government and will be identified on the programme's website at www.greenhouse.gov.au/rebates

Important notices

Applicants should not assume that they will receive a rebate on submitting an application. The Australian Government will decide whether an applicant satisfies the eligibility requirements as set out in these Guidelines and reserves the right to request further information to make this decision.

The Australian Government can only require the applicant to present reasonable evidence to support their application for the rebate. Requests from the Australian Government for evidence may be made after the payment of the rebate but must be made within twenty four (24) months of the application.

The Australian Government accepts no liability for any loss, damage or cost incurred as a result of, or arising from, the installation of a system which has been the subject of a rebate application, or the application process.

Personal information collected under this programme will only be used for the purpose of assessing applications and related purposes. This process may include the exchange of information with other government departments or agencies for compliance purposes, and/or reporting publicly on the performance of the rebate programme. Reports will be based on aggregate data and personal information will not be identifiable in such reports. Information may also be disclosed to Registered Agents for the purposes of verifying details of applications. Information will be used for the payment of the rebate to successful applicants.

The Australian Government takes no responsibility for any private arrangement between tenants and landlords with regard to the rebate. In the event that a tenant claims the rebate in respect of their principal place of residence and the owner of the property paid for the installation of the relevant system, tenants and landlords may wish to come to an arrangement regarding the transfer of the rebate to the landlord. The landlord has no entitlement against the Australian Government in these circumstances.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from www.greenhouse.gov.au/rebates

Published by the Australian Greenhouse Office, Department of the Environment and Water Resources. © Commonwealth of Australia, 2007

(Current as of 18 October 2007)