

Beginner's Guide to Renewable Energy

Through onsite renewables, offsite procurement of renewable energy and offsetting remaining emissions, businesses can utilise renewable energy, reducing their carbon footprint and actively contributing towards our community's aspiration to become one of the world's first carbon neutral cities.

Quick Guide

Purchasing a Solar PV System or Battery Storage

Consider the following:

- Solar PV or battery storage investment should be considered *after* energy efficiency measures have taken place to avoid over-investment
- Installation of solar PV systems may impact on any current and future solar PV feed-in and electricity demand tariffs. Contact your electricity retailer or SA Power Networks prior to installation
- Find out what assistance you might be eligible for in regards to grants or incentives
- Utilise Solar PV and Energy Storage calculators (below) to help you understand what size system you need
- Compare the market – there are a number of solar PV and battery comparison sites that enable the consumer to compare products on line. It is important to remember that cheaper is not always better. Poor quality solar panels or batteries also produce poor quality results
- Be sure to educate yourself about how your energy use profile compares to your predicted solar generation and what you can do to ensure you make the most of it – this should be covered in a good solar quote
- Ensure you know what questions to ask before you enter a financial agreement

Solar Solutions for Tenants

If purchasing your own system is not possible, the following options may provide a good alternative:

- Green Leasing** – A Green Lease includes terms that help you and your landlord achieve energy efficiency and other sustainability goals together for the building, including investments such as solar
- Solar Leasing or Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** - If you have a medium to long term lease and do not want to buy a solar system outright, you could look at solar leasing arrangements or a PPA
- Community Solar** - Investing in a community solar project can provide financial returns and help you meet your corporate social responsibility goals
- GreenPower** – Purchasing GreenPower® enables the purchase of renewable energy through your energy retailer. Purchasing GreenPower also increases your NABERS energy tenancy rating.

Resources

- [Energy made Easy Calculator](#) – Australian Government
- [Solar PV Guide for Business](#) – Clean Energy Council
- [Battery Storage for Business](#) – NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- [Solar Calculator](#) – Solar Quotes
- [Battery Storage Comparison Table](#) – Solar Quotes
- [Corporate Renewable Power Purchasing Agreement \(PPA\)](#) – World Business Council for Sustainable Developments
- [CORENA Community Solar Investments](#)
- [Greenpower Factsheet](#) - CitySwitch Website
- [Fifth Estate ebook: Renewable Energy](#)
- [WWF – Australia’s Position on Carbon Offsets](#)
- [National Carbon Offset Standard](#) – Australian Government

Case studies

[Di Fava Group and JLL](#) - Incentive scheme recipient case studies

[Dsquared: Solar Sharing](#) - Fifth Estate Renewable Energy ebook

[Baenziger Coles and Western Australian Local Government Association: 5kW Solar Array](#) – CitySwitch Case study

Incentives

City of Adelaide Sustainability Incentives Scheme – Solar PV and Energy Storage

Eligible properties may apply for the following rebates (see here for [details and eligibility](#)):

- Photovoltaic systems from 1.5kW and up to and including 10kW capacity are eligible to receive **20% of the installed system cost up to a maximum of \$1,000**. (Landlords and concession-card holders can receive 50% up to \$1000).
- Photovoltaic systems of more than 10kW up to and including 20kW are eligible to receive **20% of the installed cost of the system up to a maximum of \$2,500**, and are eligible for a pre-installation commitment.
- Photovoltaic systems greater than 20kW capacity are eligible to receive **20% of the installed cost of the system up to a maximum of \$5,000**, and are eligible for a pre-installation commitment.
- Installation of energy storage systems, coupled with an onsite solar photovoltaic system, are eligible to receive **50% of the cost up to a maximum of \$5,000**.

Building Upgrade Finance (BUF)

Building Upgrade Finance (BUF) mechanism assists building owners access long-term finance at competitive fixed interest rates to improve energy, water and waste efficiency of existing commercial buildings and undertake upgrades to heritage buildings.

To find out more, visit the City of Adelaide’s [Building Upgrade Finance](#) page.

