

Go solar and get a hot deal!

If you live in an average household and convert from electric water heating to solar, your home will produce about three tonnes less greenhouse gases every year. That's about the same as taking a small car off the road for the same period.

What are Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)?

Under the *Renewable Electricity Act* the government has mandated that by 2010 an additional 9,500 gigawatt-hours of electricity must come from renewable energy sources. For the Northern Territory this means that Power and Water requires an additional 61,500 megawatt-hours (or 61,500 RECs) of renewable energy sources by the end of 2010 to comply.

A REC is obtained for every one megawatt-hour (1000 kilowatt-hours) of electricity produced by an approved renewable generator. Using a solar hot water system as renewable source means that it displaces electricity produced by a non renewable generator and hence it can be seen that a solar hot water systems creates RECs. Owners of eligible solar hot water systems can sell their RECs to partially offset their cost of installing this renewable energy technology.

How much does it cost to go solar?

Domestic solar hot water systems initially cost between \$3000 and \$6000. How much you need to invest depends on a number of things. For example, do you use hot water to wash your clothes? How many people live in your home? How much hot water do they use?

We recommend you contact a licensed agent to find out just what kind of solar hot water system will suit you.

What does solar cost to run?

Nothing. A standard solar hot water system will pay for itself in around five years. This is based on the average amount of power used by a family of four. After your initial investment, you'll receive free hot water for the life of your solar hot water system – usually 15 to 20 years.

How do I sell my RECs?

Once you've decided to go solar, all you need do is see a solar hot water system supplier and ask for the solar hot water rebate application form with your purchase. The supplier will give you all the information you'll need about the system you're buying and the number of RECs it attracts. You can also make enquiries by contacting Power and Water on 1800 245 092.

RECs must be applied for and assigned within 12 months of the installation date. To allow the RECs to be assigned within the 12 month time limit, the owner is responsible for ensuring that all information required is presented to Power and Water one month prior to the expiry date. RECs not assigned within the 12 month time limit become null and void and cannot be claimed.

Why does Power and Water want RECs?

The Federal Government wants to encourage electricity utilities like Power and Water to look for ways to support renewable energy. One way to do that is through the REC Buyback Scheme. Solar energy is a free and renewable energy source which attracts RECs. This benefit is passed on to you in the form of a rebate when you purchase a solar hot water system.

Want to find out more?

Phone us on 1800 245 092, visit powerwater.com.au or collect an application form at any of our Customer Service Centres.