

Victorian Solar Homes program - ZECO Energy Information Sheet

On the 1st of July the Victorian Government relaunched its Solar Homes program which now includes a solar PV rebate, interest-free loans for solar PV, a solar battery rebate and a rebate for landlords who install solar PV systems at their rental properties. These rebate programs sit alongside the solar hot water rebate and aim to assist 770,000 Victorian households over 10 years with 700,000 solar panel subsidies, 60,000 hot water subsidies and 10,000 battery subsidies.

ZECO Energy will endeavor to assist you in obtaining the point of sale rebate where appropriate, however, ZECO cannot guarantee that any application will be approved.

Before submitting an application, customers should consider their preferred option as Solar Victoria is currently only accepting participation in one rebate program per property. Details of the various rebate programs currently available through the Solar Homes program, along with relevant eligibility criteria are detailed below.

Solar PV rebate and interest-free loans

Under the solar PV rebate, owner-occupiers may be eligible to receive a half price discount of up to \$2,225 off the cost of a solar system via a point of sale discount. In addition, eligible owner-occupiers can also apply for an interest-free loan equivalent to the amount of their rebate with a four year term.

To be eligible to receive the rebate for installing a solar PV system and to receive an interest-free loan, you must meet the following criteria:

- you must be an owner-occupier of the property;
- the existing property is valued at under \$3 million (based on current rates notice supplied with the application);
- the owners have a combined household taxable income of less than \$180,000 per year (based on last year's Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment); and
- you do not have an existing solar PV system at the property unless they are an early adopter who installed their system prior to 1 November 2009.

In addition, to be eligible for the interest-free loan, the estimated savings from the solar PV system over a four year period must be greater than the loan amount.

Solar battery rebate

Under the solar battery rebate, eligible households can receive a half price discount of up to \$4,838 off the cost of installing a solar battery to complement an existing solar PV system.

To be eligible to receive a battery rebate, you must meet the following criteria:

- you must be an owner-occupier of the property;
- the existing property is valued at under \$3 million (based on current rates notice supplied with the application);
- the owners have a combined household taxable income of less than \$180,000 per year (based on last year's Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment);
- you do not have a home battery system already installed at the property;
- the property sits within a designated suburb, as identified by Solar Victoria. These can

be found here - <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/Solar-rebates/Solar-batteries>; and

- you must have an existing 5kW or greater capacity solar system installed.

Solar for rental properties

Landlords may be eligible to receive a half price discount of up to \$2,225 off the cost of a solar PV system they install at a rental property.

To be eligible to receive a solar panel rebate, landlords must meet the following criteria:

- the tenant/s in the rental property must have a combined household taxable income of less than \$180,000 per year (based on last year's Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment);
- the rental property must be valued at under \$3 million;
- the rental property does not already have solar panels (PV) installed; and
- the rental property address has had not previously participated in the Solar Homes program.

An applicant can only apply once as an owner-occupier (one of solar PV, batteries or hot water only) and once as a landlord (solar PV only).

Solar Victoria intends on offering an interest-free loan component for the Solar for rental properties rebate program in the near future.

Solar Homes program application process

1. ZECO will enter your information and the quote details into the Solar Victoria online portal.
2. Solar Victoria will contact you to provide the process and requirements you will need to meet to start the approval process.
3. Solar Victoria will advise you if your application has been approved and will issue you an approval number you can then provide to ZECO.
4. ZECO will confirm the approval and claim the approved amounts once the system has been installed and inspected.

Solar retailer & installer requirements

As part of the installation process, ZECO Energy will:

- only use Clean Energy Council (CEC) accredited installers;
- only use CEC approved solar panels and inverters;
- ensure the all CEC accredited installers have not received a WorkSafe infringement for the past three years and will provide you with a Provider Statement prior to installation to confirm that this is the case; and
- submit the required pre and post-installation documentation via the Solar Victoria online portal.

[For further details of the Solar Homes program go to www.solar.vic.gov.au](https://www.solar.vic.gov.au) or call Solar Victoria on 1300 363 744.