



Australia's largest potential energy source

How does the metering work?

There are two methods of metering a grid connection, 'gross' and 'net'. With gross metering, all the energy produced feeds directly into the grid. The net metering option powers your home first, reducing or replacing your grid consumption. Then, if you're producing more than you're consuming, the excess will feed back into the grid and be recorded as 'export' on your bi-directional meter.

In order to accurately record the energy you return to the grid your current meter will be replaced with a 'Smart Meter' programmed to record energy flows in both directions. This records the energy you use from the grid (imported) and the energy you put into the grid (exported).

The Country Energy bi-directional meter?

Country Energy is currently installing the 'A11' model for single-phase connections and the 'Q4' model for three-phase connections. Both models record the energy you consume and export it in the same way a Smart Meter would.

Your energy use is classified according to the time period it's used in – the three periods are Peak, Shoulder and Off-Peak. By monitoring this information, you can keep an eye on how much electricity you're contributing to the grid and how much you're taking out, instead of waiting for a bill to analyse your consumption patterns. By using the information recorded on your inverter and the bi-directional meter you'll also be able to work out how much energy your home uses in total, not just how much you've imported from the grid.

On 1 January 2010, the NSW Government's NSW Bonus Solar Scheme commenced, providing customers with a 'gross' feed-in tariff for all energy produced by small scale distributed solar photovoltaic systems and wind turbines.

The NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme commenced on 1 January 2010.

Under the Scheme, gross metered customers will be paid a feed-in tariff of **60 cents** per kilowatt hour for all energy generated by small scale distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems or wind turbines.

Customers in the Country Energy network area who meet all requirements for eligibility under the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme - other than having gross meters installed - and who prefer to install or remain on net metering, may choose to receive net credits for their

generation - this means they will receive the Solar Bonus Scheme feed-in tariff which is currently 60 cents per kilowatt hour for all excess electricity generated and fed-back into the grid by their small-scale photovoltaic (PV) system or wind turbine after household or small business needs are met.

Originally the Scheme only allowed for net metered customers to receive the feed-in tariff until the transition cut-off date of 1 July 2010.

Customers are encouraged to contact Country Energy distribution business or their accredited service provider (ASP) to discuss their metering options before making a final decision.

Country Energy will continue to provide existing and new customers with a gross meter free of charge, and will now provide new customers who are unable to transition to gross metering, with a net meter free of charge. Customers should contact an Accredited Service Provider (ASP) who will order a new gross or net meter from Country Energy and arrange for its installation. The costs associated with the installation of the meter are the responsibility of the customer and should be discussed on an individual basis with your chosen ASP.

Gross and net metered customers will continue to be charged their existing rate for energy consumption and Country Energy will provide an additional **0.812 cents** per kilowatt hour for avoided transmission use of system (TUOS) charges.

The NSW Government has announced it will review the Scheme in 2012, or when the installed capacity of renewable energy generators reaches 50 megawatts.

The NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme is scheduled to conclude in 2017.