

Installing a small scale renewable energy system

Your five-step guide

Congratulations on your decision to install a small scale renewable energy system at your home or small business – this information will help guide you through the process.

Step one – Find out about eligibility for the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme

Log onto the NSW Industry and Investment website at www.industry.nsw.gov.au or read the questions and answers document developed by Country Energy to find out about eligibility for participation in the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme.

Step two – Contact an accredited installer

Contact an accredited system installer and research the type of system that you want to install that best suits your needs and budget – keep in mind the eligibility requirements for the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme. Ask an installer about the site and technical requirements involved – such as the best location to install the system at your premise.

Engage your nominated installer and ask them to submit an application for connection to Country Energy's electricity network. This application is available on our website – www.countryenergy.com.au or by [clicking here](#).

A list of accredited Installers can be found on the Clean Energy Council website at www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au or by [clicking here](#).

Step three – Make sure Country Energy has the information it requires

Once you have received written advice from Country Energy, approving your installation for connection to the network, you can proceed with the installation of your new system and metering arrangements at your premise.

Once your system has been installed, your installer must submit a Certificate of Compliance for Electrical works (CCEW) to Country Energy and offer you a copy on the date of installation. The receipt of the CCEW lets us know that your system is installed and triggers our installation inspection process – meaning we will visit your premise and inspect your installation for compliance to the relevant regulations.

Please note that for strict safety reasons, Country Energy must inspect and approve your installation before it can be permanently connected to our electricity network. Your installer whilst on site may need to energise your system for testing purposes.

If your system does not meet Country Energy's inspection standards, your installer will be sent a defect notice and must make repairs before your system will be energised and connected to our network.

Approved installations will be connected to the network using your existing metering, allowing you to start enjoying the benefits of your system - offsetting your energy consumption and reducing your electricity bill whilst you wait for the installation of a net or gross meter which measures the amount of energy your system produces.

Step four – Contact an Accredited Service Provider (ASP)

You must engage a suitably qualified level 2, category 4 Accredited Service Provider (ASP) to be eligible for participation in the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme. A list of Accredited ASPs can be found on the NSW Fair Trading website at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au or by [clicking here](#).

Contact your nominated ASP to inspect your current metering arrangements to see if they are suitable for installation of a gross meter. If you are eligible to participate in the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme and have installed a gross meter you will receive the Scheme's feed-in tariff of 60 cents per kilowatt hour for **all** energy generated by your compliant system.

Please note that some existing metering arrangements may require additional work at an extra cost to allow the installation of a gross meter. In these instances, installation of a net meter may be an alternative to discuss with your ASP. Customers with net metering arrangements are eligible to participate in the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme under transitional arrangements until 1 July 2011. This allows them to receive the Scheme's feed-in tariff of 60 cents per kilowatt hour, for all **excess** electricity generated after household or small business needs are met.

Country Energy will provide you with a gross or net meter at no cost, and your ASP will order your meter from Country Energy and undertake installation. The costs associated with your ASP installing and changing your metering arrangements are your responsibility.

When your meter is installed, your ASP must submit a Notification of Service Works (NoSW) to Country Energy – this is the last document that Country Energy requires, and will now contact your energy retailer to advise of the system you have installed and of the metering arrangements so you can commence receiving payment for the energy your system produces at the relevant feed-in tariff rate.

Country Energy randomly undertakes sample inspections of meter installations and may visit your premise a second time to look at your metering arrangements.

Step five – Review your bill

Once Country Energy has received and approved your application for a new installation (CCEW), approved your installation and received the NoSW from your ASP, we will advise your energy retailer of the installation of your new system and metering arrangements. This will trigger your retailer to commence crediting your energy bill with the relevant feed-in tariff for the renewable energy produced by your system.

Where can I find more information?

Our friendly and professional *energyanswers* team are available during business hours to answer any questions– simply call them on **1800 ENERGY**. For Country Energy billing enquiries, call our Customer Service team on **13 23 56**.

Additional information is available from:

Country Energy

Customer Questions and Answers
[Country Energy - NSW Solar Bonus Scheme](#)

NSW Industry and Investment

Information about the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy/sustainable

NSW Fair Trading

List of Accredited Service Providers
[Electricity network connections - NSW Fair Trading](#)

Clean Energy Council

List of eligible installations and inverters
[Clean Energy Council | Find an Installer](#)

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLER

- Is my property suitable for a solar PV or wind turbine installation?
- What size installation can I reasonably expect to install?
- Where is the best place to install my new system to maximise sun or minimise wind exposure?
- Where is the best place to install my new system to minimise any inconvenience - like noise?
- What is the cost of the proposed system?
- What Federal and State Government subsidies or rebates are available?
- What are Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) and how do these work?
- How can REC's offset the cost of my system?
- How does the Australian Exchange rate affect my quotation / cost for my new system?
- What guarantee or warranty is offered for my installation and the inverter?
- Does your quote include the installation of a meter?
- When will you submit the application to connect my new system to my network provider?

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ACCREDITED SERVICE PROVIDER (ASP)

- Are you a level 2, category 4 ASP? This is important, as installations of meters must be carried out by an ASP with this accreditation to be eligible for the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme
- Can I install a gross meter, and is there any additional work required for the meter to be installed?
- Will any additional work be required to change my existing metering arrangements to gross metering?
- I currently have Master / sub metering arrangements – can I participate in the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme? If not, what work is required to allow me to install a gross meter and participate in the Scheme?
- If I engage you to install my meter – how long can I reasonably expect to wait before you can do the job?