

Reminder about solar hot water rebates



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The Federal Government's Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) has sent out a reminder about its \$1000 rebate on new solar hot water systems, provided that the applicant household:

- is switching from an electric storage hot water system; and
- has a combined taxable family income of less than \$100 000 a year.

The rebate is available to both homeowners and renters.

The AGO says that in switching from an electric storage hot water system to solar, an average household could reduce its CO₂ emissions by 2–4 tonnes per year. This translates into annual savings of \$300–700, depending on climate and number of people in the household.

In addition to federal and state government rebates, solar hot water systems come with tradable Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which can be used to provide a discount on the upfront cost of the unit.

More information:
www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarhotwer/index.html

Need for more energy awareness by Australian companies?

Is there a disconnection between corporate 'green' energy efficiency rhetoric and reality within Australian firms?

According to a recent report by management consultancy Proudfoot, many Australian businesses – including those in the energy intensive manufacturing, mining, transport and logistics sectors – do not have a formal energy policy in place.

Proudfoot's report showed that 65.7% of the 102 companies surveyed have no published energy improvement goals. Around 51.9% of respondents said they do not measure or monitor energy KPIs (key performance indicators); 43% do not communicate energy expectations to employees; and 41.1% don't have a designated person or function responsible for energy.

New Zealand has a more progressive 'energy awareness' corporate culture, claims Proudfoot, with 36% of its companies having had an energy policy in place for more than six years, compared to only 7.5% of Australian companies.

However, according to Chris Wallbank of global commercial property services firm Jones



High-energy-use corporations will soon be required to report on energy use and efficiency initiatives under the 2006 Energy Efficiencies Opportunities Act.

Lang LaSalle, occupants of corporate properties are concerned about the need for energy use benchmark reporting systems because they are being increasingly required to report on the use of energy, waste and water.

Jones Lang LaSalle manages more than 3000 properties around Australia.

Wallbank says the company has been developing a web-based data and assessment tool that will help its clients meet the requirements of the *Energy Efficiencies Opportunities (EEO) Act 2006*, to be introduced in December 2008.

'The EEO Act has set mandatory participation in a

program for corporations using more than 0.5 petrajoules (PJ) (139 000 megawatts) of energy, or producing more than 125 kilotonnes (kt) of CO₂, within the 2008–2009 financial year,' says Wallbank.

'This means that most companies spending approximately \$5 million or more in electricity each year, or over \$1.5 million on gas, will be required to register and report on their emissions on or before December 2008.'

More information:
 Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources' Energy Efficiency Opportunities program, www.energyefficiencyopportunities.gov.au

Double the value for power from domestic solar

The South Australian Government recently introduced solar 'feed-in' legislation that allows homeowners with solar photovoltaic panels to receive double-value credits for power they feed in to the grid.

Under the legislation, homes with small-scale grid-connected

photovoltaic electricity systems will receive credits valued at twice the standard retail price for each kilowatt hour of electricity generated. South Australia accounts for 46 per cent of the nation's grid-connected solar panels.



The SA Government will pay twice the retail price for power from domestic PV units. Solaris