

GUIDE ON HOW TO GET YOUR GRID CONNECTED SOLAR SYSTEM INSTALLED

What is Solar Electricity?

Solar electricity is electricity that has been converted from the energy in photons from sunlight. Figure 1 shows the layout of a grid connected solar system and states the purpose of each component.

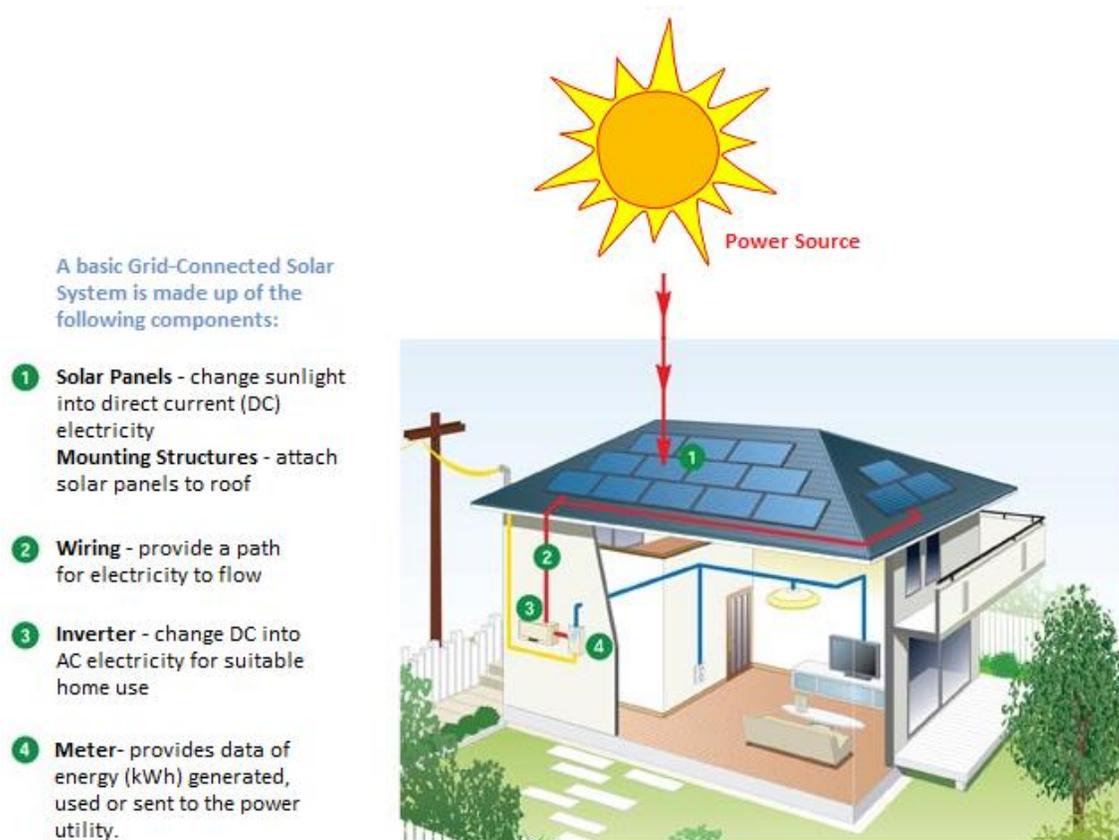


Figure 1: Layout of a grid connected solar system

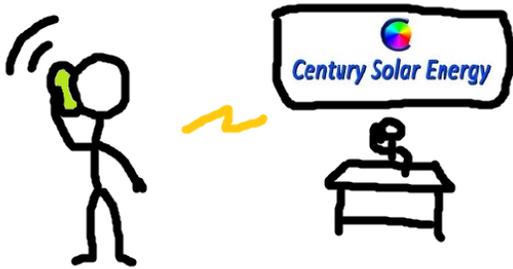
Things to note: There is no storage in a grid-connected system, what it generates will go directly to supply your house, with any excess energy being exported to the grid. Therefore the system won't generate electricity if there is no sunlight. It will not work at night and any form of shading such as cloudy weather will reduce its output. If the system is off or not working, your power supply will automatically switch back to your normal electricity supplier. When there is sunlight, your system should be generating electricity and you will save using electricity from the grid.

Because the retail cost of electricity is currently higher than the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) from a solar system you should make savings on electricity bills. The LCOE is the net cost to install a renewable energy system divided by its expected life-time energy output. Further information about electricity prices can be found here: http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Electricity/Electricity_Prices/. You can also contact your electricity provider but you may want to have a look on their website first.

Moreover, electricity prices seem like they will increase due to inflation; as electricity infrastructure ages it needs to be fixed or replaced; demand falls due to greater uptake of energy efficiency and photovoltaics (PV); and changes in the manufacturing sector moving offshore. As demand falls, electricity providers need to ensure that they recover cost expenditure on grid upgrades, and so they typically do this by increasing prices. This, in turn, leads more customers to reduce electricity demand through energy efficiency and PV, and so on.

Any excess energy generated from the system can be sold to your electricity provider at a certain price. This price is around 6 c/kWh to 8 c/kWh, although electricity providers are reducing prices. For more information on the buyback rate of excess energy, please contact your electricity provider.

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Please provide the following information (if you have not done so yet) so that we can give you a preliminary quote:

- **Name and contact details**
- **Full address** (so we can see the available space on your roof)
- **Double/Single Storey**
- **Within Sydney?** (Surcharge applies for 100km away from Sydney Metro Area)

Got the following?

- An email address
- A camera and know how to attach pictures to email or send them through phones or be able to print them.
- A scanner, fax machine or envelopes and stamps
- A printer

If so, go to step 3. If you do not have any of the above it is quite easy to set up an email account and you can go to a local library to access a printer and scanner. It is quite easy to do these things, but you may ask for a free site consultation. We'll then give you a call back **and book a time with you. Booked? Go to Step 4.**

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Provide us your email address and we will send you the following:

- A preview of the panels layout on your roof
- A preliminary quote with product info and price
- Company & product specifications (available on request)

Happy with the above? Please send back the following to us:

- A photo of your meter box's insides (we need to check for spacing and compatibility issues)
- The NMI number -- found on an electricity bill as shown below (your electricity bill may look different to this).
- Signed quote (scan into the PC and email it to us; fax it back to us or mail it to our office)
- A deposit specified on the quote. (Internet bank transfer or mail us a cheque).

Your overall picture

Usage
Average usage per day: XXX.XXkWh
Same time last year: XX.XXkWh
Average cost per day: \$XX.XX

Greenhouse gas emissions
Total for this bill: XX.XX tonnes from XXXXXkWh

For information on how to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, visit www.climatechange.vic.gov.au

Things you need to know

Concession: Your State Government concession has been credited to this account and details are overleaf. Please note that your eligibility to receive concessions will be checked with Centrelink or Veterans Affairs.

Trouble paying?
If you need help with your energy needs, just call us. If you are having difficulty paying this bill, please call us to find out about payment options.

Moving? Take us with you
Just call us at least three business days before you move on and we'll look after all your energy needs for you.

We speak your language
Interpreter service
Arabic • Spanish • Italian • Greek • Croatian • Vietnamese • Chinese
هل تحتاج لترجمة اتصل على الرقم أعلاه
Necessita un interprete? Chiama al numero indicato sopra.
Se vi serve un interprete, telefonate al qua sopra numero.
Αγανάκτηση διαμαρτυρίες, τηλεφωνήστε στον αριθμό παραπάνω.
Trebate il posredninstvo? Nazovite gore navodeni broj.
Нужна ли вам помощь? Укажите номер телефона выше.
如果您需要傳譯員的幫助，請致電以上號碼。

Stay informed
If you do not wish to receive marketing information about AGL products and services, please call us.

Your account in detail

Supply address: 123 Sample Street, SAMPLETOWN

NMI: XXXXXXXXXX

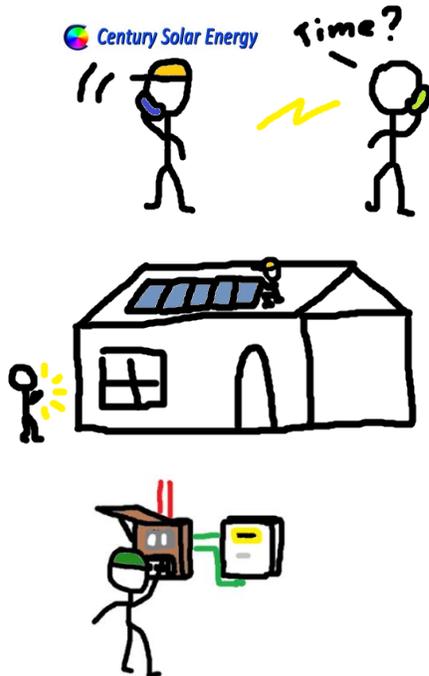
Bill period: 22 Jan 2010 to 24 March 2010

Reading type: Actual read on 24 March 2010

Tariff description: Residential Home – C

Meter no.	Days billed	Previous reading	Current reading	Usage kWh
XXXXXX	XX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXX

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After we get all the required information from you, we will start filing your application for approval.

At the same time, our installers will contact you and book a time to install the system.

After the system is installed, our electrician will come and connect the system with the meter. Your system is ready to use after that.

Installation takes place in two separate stages:

- Stage 1 – Solar Panel and Inverter installation (this should be completed within 2 weeks if there is no rain); and
- Stage 2 – Meter Installation (connecting the system to your property and the grid). (This should be completed in the following week).

All done? Everything connected and working? Congratulations! Your savings on electricity bills will start as soon as you make a payment on your next one, which should be lower than what it would have been without a solar system.

Q: What maintenance is required?

A: All grid-connected systems generally require very little to no maintenance at all. Unless the weather is dry for a long period, general water cleaning on the panels and a simple dust-wiping of the inverter is all you need.

For more information on maintenance, you can visit <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/ee/solar/information/Electricity%20from%20the%20Sun%20Part%20B.pdf>

Q: What if there's dust or bird drops on the panels, how can I clean it?

A: Rain should wash the soiling away. If you are in a very dry area or an area with a lot of pollution, you may want to have a look to see if it needs cleaning every year or so.

Q: If it's cloudy, does my system still work?

A: Clouds block out direct sunlight but still let diffuse sunlight through so some electricity will still be generated when clouds shade the system. Grid electricity should provide for whatever electricity you need that the solar system cannot completely provide for. **Got more questions? Call us on 1300 886 903 or email us on info@cseolar.com.au.**

FAQ

