



Switching to a solar hot water system

Water heating accounts for about 30 percent of an average household's total energy use, costing up to \$450 a year and creating up to 3,000kg of greenhouse gas. However the sun provides an unlimited supply of free energy we can use for heating water. Solar water heaters that use an efficiently controlled booster can reduce hot water bills by around 75% in Western Australia. This can add up to thousands of dollars saved over the lifetime of the system.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Install a solar water heater to reduce your energy bills and reduce your household greenhouse gas emissions. The money you will save on energy and the rebates make it worth replacing an existing hot

water system - especially if it is an old model electric storage unit.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Energy from the sun is captured in a solar panel which is mounted on the roof and faces north (i.e. towards the sun). The heat either directly warms the water in the collector or heats a fluid which then transfers the heat to the water in the tank.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Don't wait for your old hot water system to fail, because solar systems take a few weeks to supply. Look into your options for solar hot water by contacting suppliers in the Yellow Pages.

Replace an electric storage water heater with a boosted solar hot water system and save each year.



TANYA HA, an expert in environmental living and the author of *Greenology* and *The Australian Green Consumer Guide* provides advice on energy saving in your home.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Planning and Infrastructure**

How much does it cost?

Solar hot water systems vary in cost between \$1,500 and \$4,500 depending on the type of system you install. Factors affecting the price include the number of people in your household, the direction your roof faces, your current hot water usage, future hot water usage (growing children), any trees or buildings causing shadows and your eligibility for rebates. There are three separate rebate schemes available when purchasing a new solar hot water system.

1. The Government of Western Australia is offering rebates to householders who install environmentally friendly, gas-boosted solar water heaters.

Rebates* available:

- \$500 for natural gas-boosted solar water heaters
- \$700 for bottled LP gas-boosted solar water heaters used in areas without reticulated gas.

Contact the Energy Smart

Line on 1300 658 158 or go to

www.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au. A list of solar hot water system suppliers is available at:

www.energysmartdirectory.com

2. A federal rebate of up to \$1,600 is available for the installation of a solar or heat pump system as part of the Energy Efficient Homes Package. The rebate is only available to people who have not already accessed support

to install ceiling insulation through the Homeowner Insulation Program. The program will run from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2011.

To get the rebate the solar or heat pump system must:

- replace an existing electric storage system
- be eligible for at least 20 REC's at the time and place of installation
- be installed by a suitably qualified person (plumber or electrician).

Information on the Energy Efficient Homes Package is available from

www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency or by calling 1800 808 571.

3. Some solar hot water systems are eligible for a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) from the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator. For further details on the rebate contact the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator on 02 6274 2192 or go to www.orer.gov.au

Your solar water heater supplier can provide you with further details on your eligibility for rebates.

WHY?

Installing a solar hot water system saves energy, reduces the emission of greenhouse gas and helps save you money.

*Rebates are correct as of June 2009 and are subject to change.