

How Your Solar PV System Works



Solar PV panels, usually fitted to the roof, convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity. The number of panels installed will depend on the nominal size of your system. Collectively groups of these panels are referred to as a solar array.

The DC electricity generated is converted into alternating current (AC) via the inverter (generally accessible at ground level, often located inside the garage or on a side wall of the property). Some systems have micro-inverters, which are located on the roof under the panels.

The converted electricity (AC) is now suitable for consumption by your home's appliances. Most inverters include a digital display so you can monitor the system's information such as the amount of solar electricity produced, and some inverters come with on-line web or App based monitoring programs. Please refer to the separate inverter manual for specific information on your system.

Your solar PV system will be connected to the grid with net metering, meaning that your property will utilise the electricity produced by your system before drawing power from the grid and any surplus electricity will be exported to the grid.

If you have a smart meter installed, this will need to be reprogrammed to be able to measure both your electricity imported and electricity exported. If you still have an old electro - mechanical meter (the one with the spinning disk), this will need to be replaced with a bidirectional meter able to record the electricity you both import and export.

Your electricity retailer will continue to read your meter at regular intervals and bill you for the electricity you consume from the grid. Any solar generated electricity exported to the grid will be applied as a credit on your account at the rate you negotiate with your electricity retailer. This is known as a Feed-in Tariff.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTRICITY RETAILER AND ARRANGE FOR A FEED-IN TARIFF CONTRACT.