

NATIONAL SOLAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

The National Solar Schools Program will help Australian schools take practical action over the next eight years to tackle climate change as part of the government's Solar Schools – Solar Homes Plan. The program is expected to be launched in July 2008.

The National Solar Schools Program will offer grants of up to

- \$20,000 for solar technology and to support the installation of 2kW solar panels; and
- \$30,000 to invest in any combination of solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks, and passive solar innovations such as sky lights, shade awnings, lighting upgrades, extended solar power systems or other energy efficiency measures.

The maximum amount any school can claim under the National Solar Schools Program is \$50,000. The amount of funding a school is eligible for will be reduced by the full amount of any claim made under the Green Vouchers for Schools Program.

Projects funded under the National Solar Schools Program must meet certain requirements

- The works must be carried out at a clearly defined school site.
- The supply and installation of any photovoltaic system must be done by an accredited renewable energy designer/installer
- All works must be completed by a suitably qualified person and installed according to relevant Australian Standards.
- The cost of on-ground works must be related to the installation of eligible items
- All the necessary Federal, State and local government regulations must be met and approvals obtained.

It is anticipated that schools will complete their projects within six months of receiving funding.

Schools will need to carefully research options to ensure they get the best value out of their National Solar Schools Program funding. This may include conducting an energy and water use efficiency audit at the planning stage and contacting an accredited designer/installer to discuss the best solar system options, and the best combination of energy and water efficiency improvements.

See attached list of eligible items and conditions

NATIONAL SOLAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

On-Ground Works	Eligible items and Activities	Conditions
Solar panels	Purchase and reasonable installation costs including: PV Panels Frames and supporting equipment Equipment enclosures Batteries Battery charger Battery protection devices Inverter Regulator Monitoring equipment Lightning protection Generator changeover switch DC switchboard Output meter	The person who carries out the design and installation of the photovoltaic system must be accredited by the Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE). A list of BCSE accredited designers and installers is available from: www.bcse.org.au/default.asp?id=119 or call 1800 808 571. A minimum installation of 2kW is required to be eligible for funding. Equipment must be new not second hand. Power systems will need to be compatible with any existing school system, expansion-ready should a school wish to install additional solar panels, and connected to the national power grid if it is available. An output meter is required as part of the installation.
Rainwater tank	Purchase and reasonable installation costs including: Delivery Site preparation (including tank pad) Pipes Pump Electrical works Labour	We will only fund pipes to connect roof catchment to tanks and from tanks to non-potable applications such as toilets, irrigation systems or washing machines. The installation, repair or upgrade of roofs, guttering, irrigation systems, toilets or other fixtures (e.g. taps, showers) will not be funded. Where a reticulated system is available, the water collected in a rainwater tank must not be for potable use and cannot be plumbed to the hot water system funded by this programme.
Solar or heat pump hot water system	Purchase and reasonable installation costs including: Delivery Site preparation Pipes Pump Electrical works Labour	It must be a complete model as listed in the Register of solar water heaters of the <i>Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001</i> available at – http://www.orer.gov.au/swh/register.html The hot water system must be eligible for 20 or more Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) at the time of installation. It must have at least a five year warranty and be connected to existing facilities, for example, showers, kitchen, laundry. The system may comprise more than one unit. As the water collected in a rainwater tank funded by this programme is not for potable use, it cannot be plumbed to the hot water system.
Safety items	First flush filter Mosquito guard Pump cage Safety fencing Safety shed	Safety items must be directly related to the rainwater tanks, hot water system or photovoltaic power system funded by the National Solar Schools programme.
Passive solar innovations	Sky lights Shade awnings Lighting upgrades Extended solar panels Roof and wall insulation	Passive solar innovations must be directly related to and improve the energy efficiency rating of the existing school building.
Other	Required permits - for example, local council development application (DA)	We will only fund approvals or permits necessary for the project funded by the National Solar Schools Plan.