

## Project SunShine – information sheet

By raising awareness about the benefits and affordability of solar, **Project SunShine** aims to install a further 1000 solar systems on ACT residential roofs in 2011m - raising ACT household solar installations by 37% .

Solar systems purchased through **Project SunShine** receive discounts ranging from \$150 for a 1.6 KWh system, up to \$3,000 for a 9.6 KWh system.

**Project SunShine** was launched by the Conservation Council ACT Region on September 12 – to coincide with Australia’s annual Sustainable House Day which showcases the many innovations in Australian homes that demonstrate environmentally-friendly practices.

A key focus of the Council’s range of sustainability programs is to assist in the reduction of greenhouse emissions in the ACT and it supports the ACT Government’s recent decision to commit to a 40% reduction in the ACT’s emissions by 2020.

The ACT has the second highest number of sunshine hours of all major cities in Australia (second to Perth), but the nation’s highest carbon footprint.

The Conservation Council considers solar energy as a viable, simple and affordable energy source and encourages Canberra households to investigate this option and reduce their carbon footprint.

Solar energy production has zero greenhouse gas emissions and is a cleaner, greener form of renewable energy. The Council also encourages ACT householders to consider purchasing ‘GreenPower’ as a positive contribution to Australia’s transition to renewable energy sources.

The Conservation Council ACT encourages potential buyers to shop around and select a supplier which offers the best warranty for all aspects of the entire installation and are set up to manage all the work from start to finish.

This generous offer is made available through:

- Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from the Federal Government. These are usually traded at purchase to significantly reduce the overall purchase price of a solar system to the purchaser).
- The ACT Government’s gross feed-in tariff, which is guaranteed for 20 years to earn solar energy contributors a minimum of 45.7 cents per kilowatt (Canberra residents pay an average of about 13 cents per kilowatt for their current electricity supply).

System size	Average production in Kwh (kilowatt hours)	Estimate annual income based on current feed-in tariff of 45.7 cents—guaranteed for 20 years.
1.6 kw	2245	\$1,025
2 kW	2807	\$1,283
3 kW	4210	\$1,924
4 kW	5613	\$2,565
5 kW	7017	\$3,207

Investing in solar provides a solid return to the householder:

- It adds value to homes.
- It will pay for the cost of installation over 7 years.
- It will pay for most of your energy bills from day one and will continue to earn you an income for its estimated life of 25 years.

**To find out more about Project SunShine, go to the Conservation Council's website: [consact.org.au](http://consact.org.au), or phone the Project SunShine co-ordinator, Yvonne Best on 0432 951 965, home 02 6260 8308 (hm), 02 6229 3204 (Council p/t).**

### **Project Sunshine discounts**

Please quote "Project SunShine" or Conservation Council ACT Region for receive discount quote. To obtain a quote, please phone 1800 993 334, or take less than a minute to fill out an online form on [www.consact.org.au](http://www.consact.org.au)

kWh	2	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.4	5	6.4	7.6	9.6
Disc	\$300	\$300	\$540	\$720	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$2,000

Estimated prices for systems (based on a REC price of \$33) range from about \$3,000 for a small system, up to about \$11,500 for a 3kW system. Please note these prices are rough estimates only because of the daily movement of REC trading prices.

### **Definitions of some commonly used terms:**

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**Selling to the grid** – this applies to a solar system that diverts 100% of its solar energy it generates 'to the grid.' They are not to be confused with solar systems that generate energy for use within the home, such as solar hot water systems.

**Gross Feed-In Tariff** – This is the term used to describe price you will receive from you electricity retailer (in the ACT this is ACTEW AGL) for the solar you generate and sell to them 'via the grid.' The ACT Government has set a minimum price of 47.5 cents for each kW generated and sold (see table on page 1 for annual income estimates). This minimum price is guaranteed by the ACT Government for 20 years.

**Inverter** – a solar or PV inverter is a type of electrical inverter that is made to change the direct current (DC) electricity from a photovoltaic array (solar panel) in alternating current (AC) for use with home appliances or a utility 'grid.' Inverters often have a minimum lifespan of 10 years, and solar panels a minimum life-span of 25 years.

**Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)** - Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from the Federal Government are usually passed on to the supplier at purchase to significantly reduce the overall purchase price of a solar system to the purchaser. Suppliers can then on-sell these certificates to energy retailers. REC prices have varied between \$26 - \$46 per kW in twelve months up until September 2010.