

# Solar for Apartments Solar Victoria

Kate Barnes | Acting CEO, Solar Victoria,

Guy Pritchard | Director | Programs



[solar.vic.gov.au](http://solar.vic.gov.au)

OFFICIAL



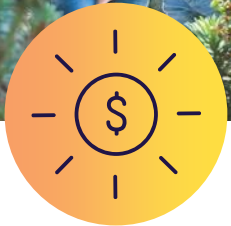
Solar  
Victoria



# Solar Victoria

**Our purpose:** To empower Victorians to take up clean, efficient and affordable energy solutions, improving liveability and accelerating Victoria's energy future.

## Our Focus Areas:



Boosting access  
to affordable  
and renewable  
energy



Accelerating  
Victoria's energy  
future



Supporting  
industry growth  
and innovation



Raising  
industry safety  
and quality



Investing in  
research, insights  
and knowledge  
sharing

# Solar Homes Program



Visit  
[solar.vic.gov.au](https://solar.vic.gov.au)

Solar Victoria's \$1.3 billion Solar Homes Program is supporting Victorians to take up clean, efficient and affordable energy solutions.



## Solar panel rebates

Up to \$1,400 to install solar PV for eligible **homeowners, rental providers and those building** homes.

Interest-free loans are also available.



## Hot water rebate

Up to \$1,000 rebate to install solar hot water or an energy-efficient heat pump hot water system.

(homeowners only)



## Hot water local content rebate

Up to \$1,400 rebate to install an eligible locally made hot water system.

Supporting local jobs.

(homeowners only)



## Solar for apartments

\$2,800 per apartment to install solar PV, up to \$140,000 for buildings of up to 50 apartments.

(homeowners and rentals)



## Residential Electrification Grants

Supporting innovative projects through seven approved providers to boost electrification and 7-star efficiency standards

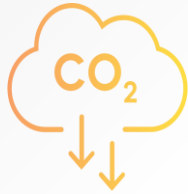
# Solar Victoria – Program Achievements

## SOLAR HOMES PROGRAM: Since 2018



**503,515**  
applications  
approved

(including PVOO, PV  
Rental, PV for Business,  
Batteries & Hot Water,  
ZEV, HHCU)



**3.2 million**  
tonnes of carbon  
emissions saved



**2.5 GW**  
installed solar  
power capacity



**\$783.6 million**  
in rebates approved

(including SHP, PV for  
Business,  
HHCU & ZEV)



**94.4 Mt**  
of CO2 emissions  
avoided



**180,000 businesses**  
and  
**2.4 million**  
**households**  
have upgraded their  
appliances and equipment



**\$380.2**  
**million**  
in loans approved



**7,392**  
jobs supported in  
FY24  
  
(Target = 5,500 in  
the  
life of the  
program)



**1,200+**  
electricians  
upskilled in PV  
and battery  
design and  
installation



Helping the state  
meet the increased  
Victorian Renewable  
Energy Targets  
(VRET) of:  
**65% by 2030**  
**95% by 2035**



**\$284 million**  
off energy bills per  
annum

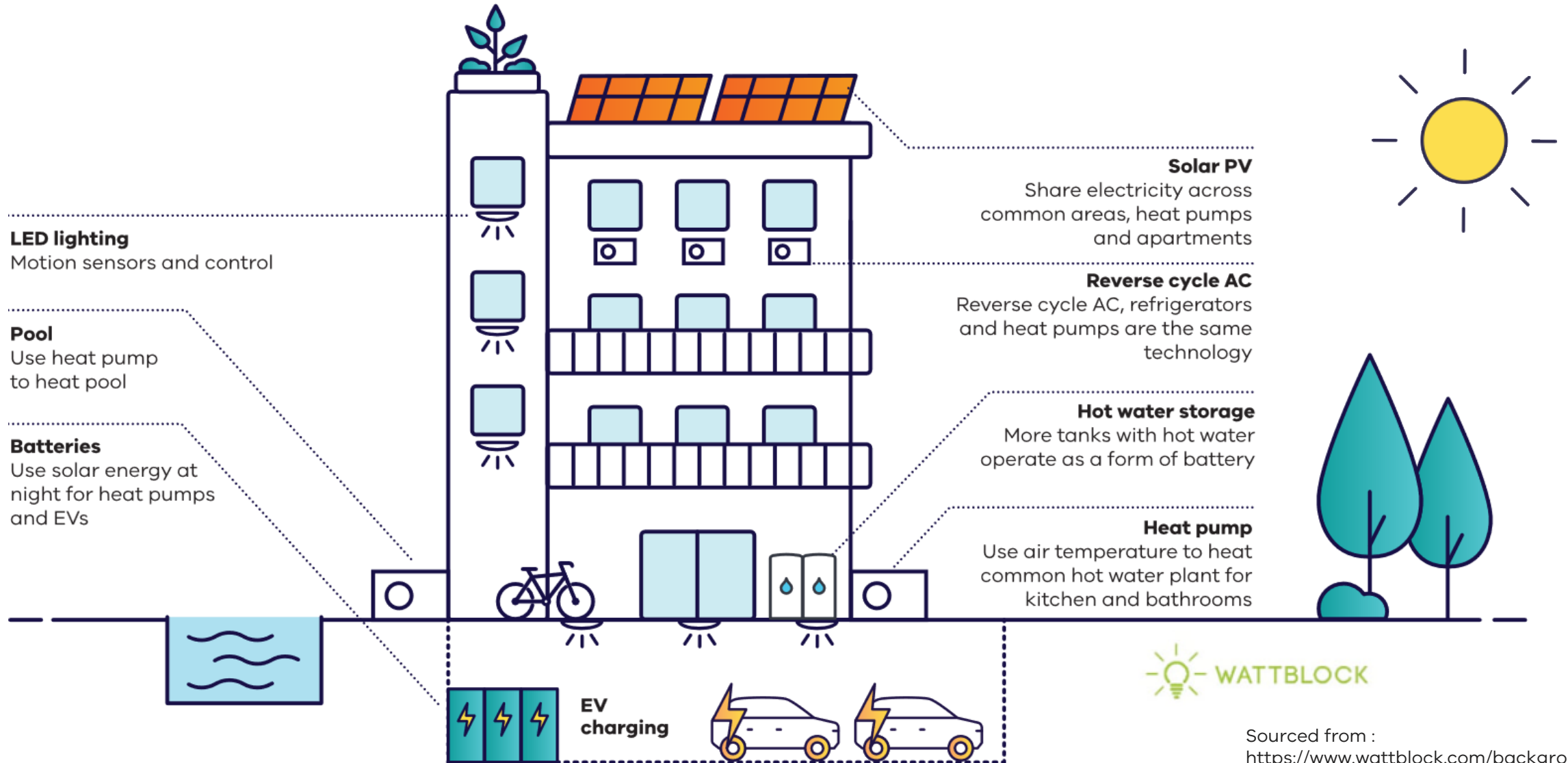


**\$3.8 billion**  
in avoided  
infrastructure costs

# Apartment living- not all apartment buildings are the same



# Apartments - Electrification potential



Sourced from :  
<https://www.wattblock.com/background.html>  
on 27/10/2025

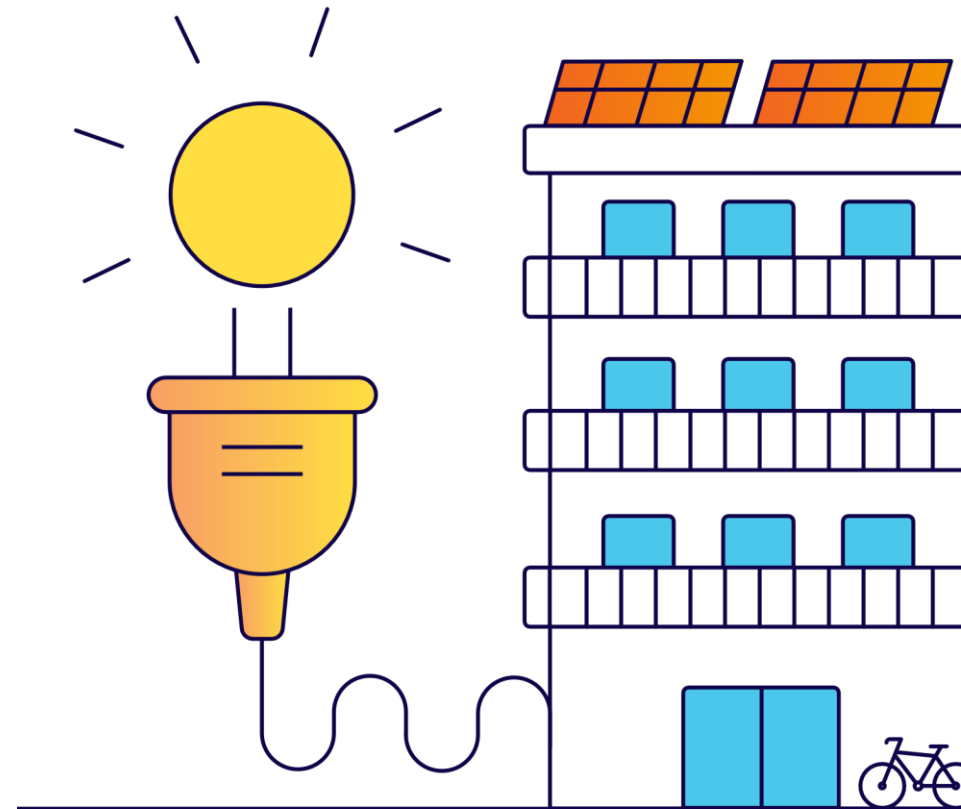
# Solar for Apartments

The Solar for Apartments program was launched in February 2024 and is helping existing Victorian apartment buildings move towards electrification and provides more opportunities for low-and middle-income apartment households to access the benefits of solar.

Solar for Apartments is jointly funded (\$16.1m) by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments and is the first and most successful large-scale program aiming to install solar on apartments in Australia.

This program reduces the cost of installing solar PV on apartment buildings, by providing rebates of up to \$2,800 per apartment for buildings of up to 50 lots, with a maximum of \$140,000 per building.

The Solar for Apartments is open to 30 June 2027, or until all rebates are committed, whichever comes first.



# Solar for Apartments program eligibility

## Eligible customers

- Victorian Owners Corporations (OCs) with 5-50 occupiable apartment lots can participate\*
- Be a Victorian tier 3 or 4 owners corporation and must have authority to make decisions on roof space as common property.
- Have not previously received a grant under the program.

Ineligible customers: Individuals, government agencies, private sector businesses, educational institutions, local government authorities, and not for profits.



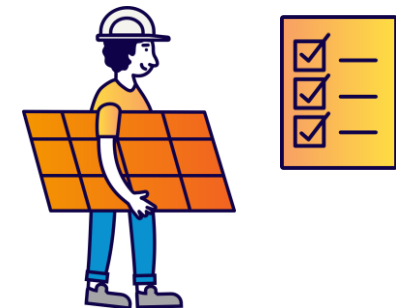
## Eligible buildings

- No more than 8 storeys tall;
- Be a completed development at the time of application
- Be classed under the National Construction Code as a Class 1a horizontally attached (e.g. townhouses or row units) or Class 2 (e.g. an apartment complex) domestic building
- Have a median capital improved apartment value not exceeding \$950,000



## Eligible systems

- Supply power, behind-the-meter, to a minimum of 5 and no more than 50 residential lots
- Demonstrate a payback period for the system and installation cost within 10 years
- Be installed on common property roof and equitably share the benefits with participating residents
- Use Solar Victoria's eligible products, and Solar Victoria's Authorised Retailer and Installer lists.



\* Exemption process in place for building with up to 100 lots.

# Solar Industry Safety Guidance and Apartments Audit Checklist

The Solar Homes Program embeds safety, quality, and consumer protection into its core operations through a multi-layered approach involving strict standards, independent audits, and end-to-end guidance to ensure high-performance and safe installations for Victorian households.

**Solar Victoria has developed a series of technical solution sheets with WorkSafe Victoria to support industry under all programs.**

This guidance covers issues that may arise when installing solar on apartment buildings, including:

- Safe work practices using elevated platforms
- Working safely at height (including specific references to increased risks for multi-level buildings)
- Edge protection
- Manual handling of heavy items
- Fall risks
- Working near asbestos-containing material



**Solar for Apartments audit checklist has been developed specifically for the Solar for Apartments program.**



The checklist will provide information on what our independent auditors look at, what ratings are applied to each question and ensuring the installation complies with the current standards, regulations, safety and quality of systems installed.

This checklist covers system performance, safety measures (isolation and disconnection points), equipment and wiring standards, documentation requirements, and inverter power sharing device.

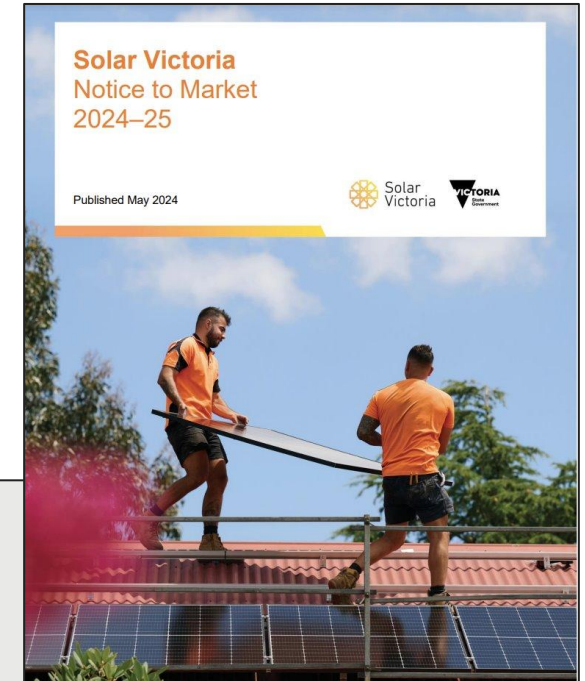
# Industry Participation Requirements – Notice to Market

Solar Victoria's **Notice to Market** sets out the mandatory requirements and recommendations for retailers and installers to participate in the Solar Homes Program.

The **New Energy Tech Consumer Code** is embedded as a mandatory requirement in the Notice to Market.

## The code requires:

- Approved Sellers have obligations to their customers regarding the quality of the technical information and service provided during the **quotation, installation, and post-installation** stages of the delivery of the new energy tech.
- Ensure that products, systems, services and documentation provided under the Code are suitable and **fit for purpose**
- Recommended to use actual customer energy usage data (meter data) to inform system benefits/savings estimates
- Use of factors to estimate self-consumption is acceptable, but must be realistic and demonstrable



Technical Guidance -  
New Energy Tech  
General

# Solar for Apartment key program metrics

141

buildings completed to date for 2,654 apartments.

An additional 19 installations are scheduled covering 348 apartments.

A further 29 buildings and 726 apartments moving through the approval process.

19

apartments on average per building

3

storeys on average per buildings

76%

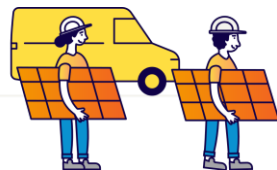
of the project cost is covered by the rebate

23%

of projects had zero out of pocket costs.

3.84mW

total capacity installed



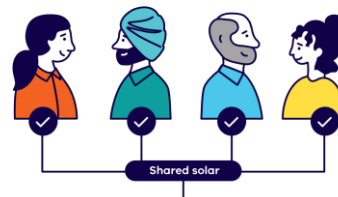
46%

of households receiving funding are rental properties

1,432 owner occupier  
1,222 rented

65%

of projects opt for solar sharing technology



\$928

average cost per apartment owner after rebate

\$3,918 before rebate



1.45kW

average system size per apartment.

27.23kW average total system size.



# Statewide accessibility and Installations by LGA

The total number of eligible buildings for the program is estimated at more than 24,000 buildings, comprising over 260,000 apartments.

Across regional and rural Victoria, 583 properties, representing 5,593 households, are likely to be eligible for the Solar for Apartments Program.

Round 2 expanded eligibility to include townhouses and row units, broadening opportunities for regional households to access and benefit from the program

The inner city is performing well, and there is potential for all LGAs, both in Melbourne and regional areas, to extend these benefits more broadly.



Installations have been strongest in:

- **Merri-Bek:**  
25 buildings / 490 apartments
- **Yarra:**  
19 buildings / 416 apartments
- **Port Phillip:**  
18 buildings / 276 apartments
- **Darebin:**  
14 buildings / 203 apartments
- **Stonnington:**  
12 buildings / 190 apartments

Demand has not been limited to a single demographic, both renters and owner-occupiers are benefiting.

# Program challenges and responses

## **Complex Owners Corporation governance and decision timeframes**

- Dedicated OC guidance, template materials, webinars, and direct support to streamline approvals.
- Contributing to the Review of the Owners Corporations Act to address systemic barriers

## **Switchboard upgrades and building electrical constraints**

- Clear technical guidance, early feasibility checks, and retailer capability uplift to manage upgrade requirements.

## **Structural and compliance requirements in older buildings**

- Strengthened assurance framework, regulator partnership, and published compliance checklists.

## **Retailer capacity and specialised installation requirements**

- Onboarding new retailers, targeted industry engagement, and capability-building initiatives.

## **Lower awareness of shared solar models in apartments**

- Targeted stakeholder engagement with strata peak bodies, councils, and greenhouse alliances to build market confidence.

# Victorian Energy Upgrades program – Household offers



Visit:  
[energy.vic.gov.au/veu](https://energy.vic.gov.au/veu)

More than 30 types of upgrades available to support Victorians in meeting new standards, including:



## Heating and cooling

Discounts up to \$1,200 (and energy bill savings of approx. \$400 per year) when replacing an existing gas heater with an efficient RCAC.

Discounts up to \$5,500 (and energy bill savings of approx. \$1,100 per year) when replacing a ducted gas heater with efficient RCAC.



## Hot water systems

Discounts up to \$630 (and energy bill savings of approx. \$200 per year) when household replaces an existing hot water heater system with a heat pump water heater.

**Heat pumps** are also available for Owners Corporations under the Commercial and Industrial section



## Weather sealing and window glazing

Save up to \$700 when you install weather sealing products and up to \$210 for window glazing products.

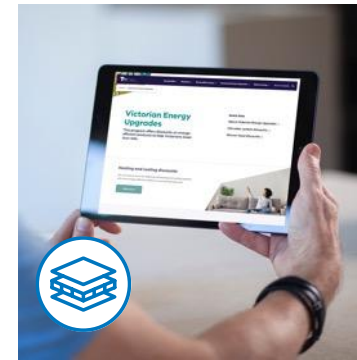
By stopping draughts, you will stop 25% of winter heat loss.



## Induction cooktops

Discount of up to \$140 to replace an existing gas cooktop.

Save up to \$400 a year in supply charges by disconnecting from gas altogether, if cooking is your last gas appliance.



## Who can participate in the VEU program?

- Homeowners
- Landlords
- Renters (in agreement with landlords)
- Businesses



## VEU ceiling insulation discounts (recently introduced)

Ceiling insulation discounts up to \$1,500 will be available to eligible households from early 2026 - improving thermal comfort and saving more than \$400 per year on energy bills and \$850 in health bills.

# Other Victorian Government Initiatives

## **Electrifying Apartment Buildings Program**

The program is a joint initiative by the Victorian Government and City of Melbourne to support apartment communities to understand and improve their energy performance, electrify their buildings, and reduce their energy costs. This initiative will provide electrification feasibility studies, NABERS energy ratings, and energy opportunity assessments for up to 10 medium and high-rise strata titled apartment buildings across metropolitan Melbourne between July 2026 and July 2027.

The program opened for EoI's in April 2026 for eligible medium and high-rise apartment buildings (typically 4+ storeys, 20+ dwellings, strata-titled and privately occupied).

## **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards**

New minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties (being phased in from 1 March 2027) will make rental homes safer and healthier year-round, save renters hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills, and cut emissions in Victoria, while keeping costs manageable for rental providers.

Targeting the most cost-effective measures for saving energy around the home, the new standards cover ceiling insulation, draughtproofing, low-flow showerheads and cooling, as well as improved efficiency ratings for hot water and heating.

Exemptions are available for situations where compliance is impractical or too costly – for example in some apartment buildings where the ceiling space is shared property, or heating or hot water are supplied by a centralised system.

**Thank you**



[solar.vic.gov.au](http://solar.vic.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

