



Australian Government

Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts

Sustainability
victoria



Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme (RRPGP)

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Q When must I submit the pre-purchase application to be eligible to receive a rebate?

The application for pre purchase must be submitted and approved prior to purchasing the proposed renewable generation system.

Q. Does RRPGP just cover photovoltaic systems?

No, the RRPGP covers all recognised and proven forms of renewable energy such as solar photovoltaic, wind turbines, solar thermal, geothermal, biomass conversion, micro hydro systems etc.

Q. What level of funding is available?

The rebate covers up to 50% of all capital costs directly associated with the installation of a renewable generator that replaces or augments a diesel generator. Expenditure covered includes design and installation costs, the cost of equipment including the renewable energy generator(s), essential enabling equipment, the inverter, batteries, etc.

Costs associated with the installation of a non-renewable generator (such as diesel or petrol) and house wiring is not covered.

Q. How do I obtain a grid-connect quote?

Contact your local electricity distribution company and request one. If you are unsure of who your local distribution company is, contact your supplier or electricity regulator.

Q. My local distributor wants to charge \$250 to \$900 for the grid-connect quote, do I have to pay this?

No. The grid-connect cost is meant to be an estimate. It is not a requirement that distributors undertake a site visit plus detailed design works and provide an offer to complete works for a fixed cost. All that is required is an email from the distributor specifying that the cost to connect is likely to be in excess of \$30,000, provided it contains a name and phone number for verification.

Q. I am just short of the \$30,000 estimated total cost for grid-connection, can I access the RRP GP?

Sites that are estimated to cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 to connect to the grid may be eligible for Residential and medium-scale rebates. You will need to put your case to Sustainability Victoria in writing and be prepared to provide a written guarantee to pay back the rebate if the site is connected to the grid in the five years following installation of the renewable generation system.

Q. My site is estimated to cost less than \$25,000 to connect to the grid, if I can't access the RRP GP is there another rebate program?

Yes. Sites close to the grid are encouraged to access the Solar Homes and Communities Plan (SHCP) to help with the cost of their new stand-alone system.

Q. Are tree clearing costs allowed to be included in my grid-connect estimate?

Yes, as long as the costs are verified in writing by an appropriate business or qualified person, including relevant approval for the removal of the trees.

Q. How do you establish that the site is over 1 km from the grid?

Applicants clearly more than 1 km from the grid can provide a map indicating the distance to the grid. A map that includes a scale plus reference details, clearly showing the location of the renewable generation system in relation to the nearest grid supply is required. Suitable maps can be obtained from Google maps (<http://www.maps.google.com>) or Geoscience Australia (<http://www.ga.gov.au/nmd/mapping>)

A 'mud map' or sketch will not be accepted, although marking site and grid details on a referenced map is acceptable.

Q. Are there any limitations on the equipment for grant eligibility?

At least 30% of total expenditure must be spent on the renewable generator(s) and essential enabling equipment, including the inverter (for example, if your system expenses total \$30,000, then the cost of the renewable equipment must exceed \$10,000).

Q. I want to expand my renewable generation system. Am I eligible?

Yes, eligible expansions (minimum 450 W renewable power generation capacity) are able to access the rebate. Systems that have previously received a rebate under the Photovoltaic Rebate Programme / Solar Homes and Communities Plan (PVRP/SHCP) are eligible for RRP GP.

Q. Are there any limitations on the designer or installer for grant eligibility?

The RAPS system must be designed by Clean Energy Council (formerly Business Council Sustainable Energy (BCSE))-accredited RAPS designer, or someone who is eligible for professional membership of the Institution of Engineers, Australia and has experience in the design of renewable generation systems. The installer must be a BCSE-accredited installer and all work carried out on voltages in excess of 115 V DC or 50 V AC must be carried out by a licensed electrical contractor.

Q. What are my responsibilities as an applicant after receiving a rebate?

Applicants must ensure that equipment on which a rebate has been paid remains at the specified location for at least five years. The applicant will be requested by Sustainability Victoria or the Australian

Greenhouse Office to provide a report on the system's performance. Systems may be inspected anytime to ensure they comply with relevant standards and requirements.

Q. How long does it take to receive notification after the pre-purchase application form has been submitted?

Applicants can generally expect to receive a letter from Sustainability Victoria notifying them of the outcome of their application within 6 weeks.

Q. How long does it take to receive my rebate following installation and submission of the rebate application form?

Applicants can generally expect to receive the rebate payment from Sustainability Victoria within 6 weeks of receipt of completed rebate application form and associated documentation.

Q. Can I access rebates for my caravan and yacht?

No. Only permanently fixed dwellings are eligible for RRP GP rebates, and are defined as having concrete footings and a permanent sewage system installed.

Q. I need to buy a new battery bank can I access the rebate?

The programme is a renewable generation support programme so purchasing a new battery bank on its own is not eligible. If you satisfy all the eligibility requirements for an extension to an existing system (e.g. Minimum 450 W and 30% of total spend on renewable generation) then a new battery bank may be eligible, (if purchased and installed with additional renewable generation).

Q. My house is presently being constructed and I plan to move into my house when it is finished, how can I satisfy the principal place of residence criteria?

You can't until you move in. Sustainability Victoria may consider people in this situation for Pre-purchase approval (provided written evidence is provided on permissions to build and when the person is to move into the house) but rebates are to only be paid when written evidence is provided that satisfies the principal place of residence requirement.

Q. Who do I contact with questions?

Phone 1300 137 880 or contact us via the website www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au