Living Smart PERTH SOLAR CITY

Upgrading to an energy efficient hot water system

Water heating accounts for about 30 percent of an average household's total energy use, costing up to $550 a year and creating up to 3,000kg of greenhouse gas. However the sun provides an almost unlimited supply of free energy we can use for heating water. Solar water heaters can reduce hot water bills by around 75% in Western Australia. This can add up to thousands of dollars saved over the lifetime of the system.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Install a solar water heater to reduce your energy bills and reduce your household greenhouse gas emissions. The money you will save on energy and the rebates make it worth replacing an old hot water system - especially if it is an electric storage unit.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Energy from the sun is captured in a solar panel which is mounted on the roof and faces north (i.e. towards the sun). The heat either directly warms the water in the collector or heats a fluid which then transfers the heat to the water in the tank.

Replace a gas storage water heater with a boosted solar hot water system and save (each year):

TANYA'S TIP:
Many people make the mistake of replacing an old hot water system with a new one of the same type and size, even if the original system was chosen for a different household. Choose the greenest and best system for your individual household's needs.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Residents of Perth's eastern region can access **Perth Solar City special discounts by calling the Living Smart team on 9469 5000.** Residents of other regions should search 'Hot Water Systems' on the electronic yellow pages.

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Transport**

How much does it cost?

The full cost of solar hot water systems are around $5,000 for a family sized electric boosted system installed on your roof and $6,500 for a gas boosted system, but eligibility for several grants and subsidies could bring the price down to between $3,200 and $4,000.

There are three separate rebate schemes available when purchasing a new solar hot water system.

1. Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) provide around $800 of subsidy for a family sized electric boosted system or $1,100 for a gas boosted system. REC prices do vary over time, so ask your solar water heater supplier to provide you with details on the current RECs subsidy.
2. The Government of Western Australia is offering rebates to householders who install family sized (250L or more storage capacity and 2.7m^2 or more collector surface area) gas-boosted solar water heaters:
   - $500 for natural gas-boosted solar water heaters
   - $700 for bottled LP gas-boosted systems. For further details on the rebate go to www.clean.energy.wa.gov.au
3. The Federal Government is offering a Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme rebate of $1,000 for Solar Hot Water systems installed after 20 February 2010. The scheme is to help households replace existing electric storage hot water systems with approved solar hot water systems in existing homes. For further details on the rebate contact the national information line on 1800 808 571 or go to ***www.environment.gov.au.***

Which type of Hot Water system should I choose?

A family sized, gas-boosted, solar hot water system will attract larger grants and provide a very energy and environmentally efficient solution. Smaller households, which are also very waterwise in their use of hot water, will find 5 to 6 star gas instantaneous hot water systems to be a viable alternative to solar, being energy efficient and lower in cost to install.

WHY?

Installing a solar hot water system will:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Cut your water heating bills by around $300 to $400 per year
- Protect your budget from future energy price rises
- Recover the cost of the system within 8-10 years
- Access available grants and subsidies to add value to your home.

During 2010/11, Living Smart will be offered to around 10,000 households in Perth's eastern region as part of the Perth Solar City Program. For more information on this Australian Government initiative, please call 1300 993 268. The Living Smart Ambassadors are Tanya Ha (expert in environmental living and the author of *Greeniology* and *Green Stuff for Kids*) and Josh Byrne (sustainability specialist, presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* program and author of *The Green Gardener*). The information in this brochure is provided in good faith. However the accuracy or appropriateness of the information is not guaranteed. The Living Smart brand has been developed by The Meeting Place Community Centre, the City of Fremantle, Murdoch University and Southern Metropolitan Regional Council to support a suite of programs developing capacity in community sustainability.

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