

PV INDUSTRY ALERT

Solar Bonus Scheme special issue

Solar Support Team 1300 553 924 ■ 8.00am–5.00pm Mon-Fri ■ energysystems@ergon.com.au

Solar Bonus Scheme changes

The Queensland Government announced changes to the Solar Bonus Scheme (SBS) on 25 June 2012. From 10 July 2012 the feed-in tariff rate will reduce from 44 cents to eight cents per kilowatt hour (net) for all new customers.

First source of information

If you have a question about the SBS, you should always first call 13 GET SOLAR (13 43 87) or go to the [Solar Bonus Scheme website](#). If the information in this alert also doesn't answer your question, please call our Solar Support Team on 1300 553 924.

Records continue to be broken

As a result of the government's announcement, Ergon Energy is receiving more than 2000 applications a day, compared to about 350 a day in May and June. We are doing everything to manage the increased load; however, your patience is greatly appreciated.

Best application method

Ergon Energy strongly recommends applications be lodged by email. Faxed copies are acceptable but more difficult to process. Mailed applications must be in an envelope postmarked before midnight 9 July to be eligible for the 44c rate.

Acknowledging applications

Confirmations of received applications are emailed to authorised third parties, or the customer if no third party is authorised. If there is no customer email address, customers are phoned. If one of these forms of receipt has not been issued for an application, please call the Solar Support Team.

Incomplete applications

As we approach 9 July 2012, if small errors or oversights are made on application forms, they will still be eligible and we will contact the customer or the authorised third party for the information.

If the form is incomplete in some other way, it will be rejected through our normal process. If our rejection advice doesn't reach the applicant in time to allow a new form to be lodged, or a complete form is not lodged, before midnight 9 July, eligibility for the 44c rate will be lost.

Please be careful to ensure each application form is completed.

Changing application details

After 9 July 2012, some application form details can be changed without affecting 44c eligibility, while others cannot.

Applicant and industry representative details

(Parts 1 and 2 of Application form)

The Name (account holder details) can be changed until planned legislation changes are implemented later in the year.

The address of the proposed generation system and Lot No. cannot be changed without affecting eligibility for the 44c rate.

System characteristics

(Part 3 of Application form)

- Inverter brand, model and series can be changed without affecting 44c eligibility. The rated AC power cannot be greater than in the original application, however, it can be lower. For any change in inverter details, please lodge another application.
- If an inverter's AC power rating is changed on the Clean Energy

Council's web page, eligibility of the application will not be affected.

- Installing a smaller or larger array than applied for is allowable, provided the inverter size is not greater than in the original application. Please lodge another application advising of the new array size. Ergon Energy can identify when panels have been added without advice to us, and we may disconnect these systems until the new application form is lodged and processed.

Downsizing after 9 July

If an application is received before midnight 9 July 2012 for an inverter size that is assessed and downsized by Ergon Energy, another application form must be lodged if a smaller inverter is desired. In those cases, the second application will be deemed to be eligible for the 44c rate as it is linked to the first.

However, if a second application is received more than three months after the date of the 'Downsize' letter, it will be reassessed.

Connections of other PV systems to the local network in the interim may result in further downsizing. The second and subsequent applications remain eligible for the 44c rate.

Electricity retailer payments

The SBS website suggests that electricity retailers may offer their own feed-in tariff. Ergon Energy Queensland, the retailer, does not currently offer an additional or alternative feed-in tariff, or a Power Purchase Agreement, for systems up to 200kW. Larger systems may or may not attract a Power Purchase Agreement. Contact Ergon Energy on 13 10 46 for more details.