

Supercharged Solar for Renters – start saving with solar

The Supercharged Solar for Renters program is expected to help about 6,500 households save around \$700 per year* on their electricity bills.

Rebates of up to \$3,500 are available to eligible landlords to install solar systems on their rental properties. The Supercharged Solar for Renters program will help deliver on the Queensland Government's commitment to supply affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to tenants across Queensland.

This fact sheet provides information on what to expect if your landlord wants to get involved and how you can make the most of a solar system if it is available at the property you are renting.

For more detailed information about the program, visit qld.gov.au/solar-for-renters.

How does this affect me?

- If your landlord wishes to claim the rebate, they will need your consent to install a solar system at the property.
- As part of the application process, your landlord will need to upload a copy of your written consent.
- Your landlord will also need to upload a copy of your tenancy agreement (lease).
- Applying for the rebate is a 2-stage process. Your landlord will need to upload the lease for conditional approval (before installation) and for final approval (after installation).
- Before the solar system is installed, your lease will need to be updated to include billing, maintenance and other arrangements.
- To ensure tenants receive a cost of living benefit from this rebate, landlords may not increase the weekly rent immediately following the solar installation and must ensure the lease, after the system is installed, has at least 8 months remaining.



Eligible properties

To be eligible, the rented property must:

- be located in Queensland
- be a tenanted Class 1a building (a house, duplex, townhouse or secondary dwelling e.g. a granny flat)
- be rented for \$1,000 or less per week
- be individually metered
- not be owner occupied
- not have a current solar system installed (working or not)
- have renters who are paying some or all of the electricity bill.

Key benefits for tenants

- You will save on your electricity bills.
- The landlord covers the cost of installing and maintaining your solar system.
- Your home remains connected to the electricity grid, ensuring a reliable energy supply.
- You will be using clean and sustainable solar energy to power your home.

** \$700 per year electricity bill savings are an estimate. Actual savings will depend on where you live, the size of the solar system, the size of your home, your retailer and metering arrangements, and how you use appliances.*

FAQs for tenants

How do I consent to participate in the program?

If your landlord chooses to participate in the program, they will provide you with a Supercharged Solar for Renters Tenant Acknowledgement and Consent form to sign. This form allows you to agree to:

- installation of the solar system
- your information (such as your lease) being submitted with the application.

Can I decline to participate?

Yes – you can choose not to provide your consent under this program (your landlord may still wish to install solar, but they won't be eligible for this rebate). You can also agree to the landlord installing solar but not to the landlord submitting some of your details with the application.

How long will this all take?

You could be saving money in a few short months. This will all depend on when your landlord applies, and how soon the solar system is installed.

How can solar reduce my electricity bill?

Solar can be used to power appliances in your home when the sun is shining during the day. This will reduce electricity costs as you're using less electricity from the grid.

You can also sell unused solar power into the grid through a feed-in tariff. The savings from solar power (including any feed-in tariff payment) will be reflected on your electricity bill.

Once the system is installed, should I change my electricity plan?

Once you have a solar system installed, to get the most benefit you must shop around for electricity plans that give you the best result for your household's situation.

To sell electricity back into the grid and reduce your bill even more, you will need a plan with a feed-in tariff and the right smart meter. Your preferred retailer will assist with this.

Visit energymadeeasy.gov.au to compare retailers.

How are the benefits shared if my landlord is the electricity account holder?

If your landlord is the account holder, you will need to agree how the solar benefits are shared. Contact your property manager or the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) for more advice.

As part of this program, the solar arrangements will need to be reflected in your lease. Your landlord will work with you to update the lease before the solar system is installed.

How do I benefit the most from using solar?

Once solar is installed, you can use a monitoring app to track and manage how you use the electricity generated by your solar system.

Your solar system generates energy when the sun is shining. The best time for Queenslanders to use their solar energy is usually between 9 am and 3 pm when the solar system is generating the most electricity (depending on the orientation of your panels and time of year). Try to run appliances during these hours to make the most of your solar power.

If you use more power than your solar system generates, or you use electricity outside daylight hours, such as for an electric hot water system, you will use electricity from the grid.

You may want to look into options to help lower the amount of electricity you need to buy from the grid.

More information

- For more information about the rebate program visit qld.gov.au/solar-for-renters or call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.
- Visit qld.gov.au and search 'Installing a solar system on a rental property' to estimate your potential solar savings with our 'solar for rentals calculator'.
- Visit qld.gov.au and search 'Solar power for your home' to explore helpful resources and information to maximise solar benefits.

