

# What is solar power?

*Solar panels convert light energy from the sun into direct current electricity. These systems are a cost-effective and environmentally responsible way of generating power for your home or business.*

## Why go solar?

**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.** In NSW, 90% of our electricity comes from coal, which is a major contributor to climate change. Solar power is pollution and greenhouse gas-free energy.

**YOU'LL SAVE MONEY.** While there are upfront costs to buying solar panels, your energy bills will be lower as you don't need to purchase as much electricity from your electricity provider.

**IT'S PROFITABLE!** From January 2010, NSW energy utilities will pay you for all the electricity generated from a solar system – earning you up to \$1000 a year!

**SOLAR PANELS ARE LONG-LASTING.** Solar power systems typically come with a 25-year warranty and require only minimal maintenance.

*An average one kilowatt solar power system can save around \$1000 a year on energy bills and up to 1.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas – equivalent to 28,000 balloons full of greenhouse gases.*

## We're taking our own advice...

*This brochure was produced by Waverley Council in support of our 'Solar Bondi' project – a partnership between Council, Green Solar Group and Suntech to install solar panels on the Bondi Pavilion and Bondi Bathers' Surf Lifesaving Club.*

To find out more about solar power, or to register to attend **free** community workshops on solar power, sustainable building and practical planning tips, contact **Waverley Council**:

PHONE **9369 8000**

WEB **www.solarbondi.com.au**

EMAIL **environment@waverley.nsw.gov.au**

For free roof assessments and information about solar panels contact **Green Solar Group**:

PHONE **1300 88 22 71**

WEB **www.greensolargroup.com**

EMAIL **info@greensolargroup.com**



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# Going solar?

A practical guide to choosing solar power for your home and business



A Waverley Council  
Environmental Levy Initiative

# How do I get started?

## Step 1

### WILL SOLAR PANELS FIT ON YOUR ROOF?

Solar panels work best attached to an unshaded, north-facing roof, but other orientations can work. If you're in doubt, most solar power companies offer a free roof assessment to determine what size, layout and orientation best suits your roof.

## Step 2

### WHAT SIZE AND TYPE OF SYSTEM SHOULD YOU GET?

The amount of energy a system will generate depends on its capacity in watts. For example, a 200-watt panel will produce double the amount of energy produced by a 100-watt panel, and will also be larger in size.

Before buying solar panels, check how much capacity they have, how this will translate into power for your appliances and whether a system of that size will fit on your roof.

### HINT

*Cutting down on energy use by switching off appliances and installing energy-efficient lights, will reduce the size of the system you need.*

## Step 3

### DO YOU NEED TO LODGE A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION?

Probably not, but check first. In the Waverley local government area, installing solar panels can be classified as 'exempt development' so you may not need a DA or Council approval, provided that certain requirements are met:

- the system must be integrated into the building or sit flush/parallel with the surface of the roof
- it should not reduce the structural integrity of, or involve structural alterations to, the building
- no trees need to be removed to make sure that solar energy is available for the system
- on average, over a five-year period, at least 75% of the electricity generated by the system in a 12-month period must be used in or for the building, and
- the system must not be on a building that is a state or local heritage item, or be in a heritage conservation area.

To check if you need a DA, contact:

the **Duty Planner** at Waverley Council's  
**Customer Service Centre**  
**55 Spring Street, Bondi Junction**  
(9.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

PHONE **8305 8484**

To check heritage areas and items visit  
[www.waverley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au)

### HINT

*Where a DA is required, Waverley Council is now waiving fees for those relating to solar power and solar hot water installations.*

## Step 4

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Solar technology is becoming less expensive. Upfront costs vary according to type, brand and size of system and available discounts.

The Federal Government's Solar Credits Scheme can cover up to half the cost and the NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme in 2010 will allow owners to 'sell' all electricity generated by their system at a premium rate for seven years.

Federal Government Solar Credits & Green Loans:  
[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)  
PHONE **1800 808 571**

NSW Solar Bonus Scheme:  
[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy)  
PHONE **1300 136 888**

