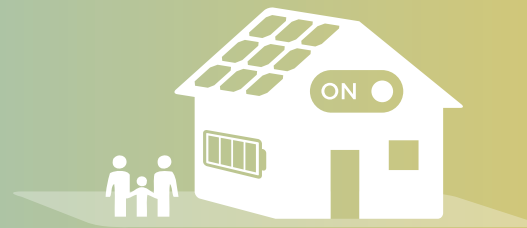


LIFE AFTER FEED-IN TARIFFS



Follow these five steps to make the most of your solar energy and keep your bills down when premium feed-in tariffs end this year.

1. Get the right meter (NSW only)

You should move to “net” metering. This will probably be a smart meter, giving you more information and options.

Some network companies may offer to rewire your existing meter at low cost, but in the long run you may be better off with a new smart meter.

⚠ Some retailers are offering free or cheap smart meters, but read the fine print on the contract.



2. Use more of your solar electricity

Use your appliances more during the day. The main appliances that use energy are for hot water and heating/cooling your home.

Heat your hot water using solar electricity (e.g. using heat pumps or electric hot water systems).

If you've got good insulation, pre-heat or cool your house before you get home (e.g. using reverse cycle air conditioners).



3. Think twice about gas

Using gas means you can't maximise the use of your solar electricity to run your appliances.

Using your solar electricity for hot water or heating/cooling your home is cheaper than using bottled or even town gas.

⚠ At this stage you just need to make a plan for getting off gas, even if it takes a few years to implement.



4. Get the best electricity deal

Some retailers are improving their offers for solar energy exported to the grid, so shop around.

But also think about your total annual bill, including the fixed charges, energy rate, discounts and tariff type.

⚠ Take your time finding the best deal and always make sure you know what you are signing up for.



5. Consider more solar or a battery

Down the line, as energy markets change and costs drop, consider a battery or west facing solar.

⚠ Installing a small battery currently isn't cost-effective for most households, but as prices drop it may soon make sense.



Find out more at:
solarcitizens.org.au/life_after_fits

This project was funded by Energy Consumers Australia (www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au) as part of its grants process for consumer advocacy projects and research projects for the benefit of consumers of electricity and natural gas. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of Energy Consumers Australia.