



Energy efficiency

with Paul Myers

Power to the people: The solar solution



Imagine a future when we can run our appliances from clean renewable electricity generated from the sunlight falling on our rooftops.

And imagine your electricity company actually paying you for any extra power that you don't use. Well you don't have to dream about it – it's already happening.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels don't emit any greenhouse emissions to produce electricity. The technology is proven and reliable and is already installed on more than 1,200 homes across Sydney. That's 1,200 households selling electricity back to EnergyAustralia.

And if you have a smart meter, we'll soon pay you more than double the normal rate for the electricity you produce from your rooftop system between 2pm-8pm.

After a government rebate, a one kilowatt (1kW) solar set up covering a roof area of about 8 square meters would cost about

\$10,000 fully installed. This system would generate about 20% of the electricity needs of an average home. That's a saving of about \$200 per year.

It is important to ensure solar panels are installed on a north facing area free of shading, and ideally angled at about a 30 degree slope to maximise annual energy generation.

Rooftop PV is certainly an expensive investment, but it one of the strongest statements you can make about the need to tackle climate change.

If you want to go solar, then call the Solar Rebate Hotline on 1300 138 122 or go to www.energy.com.au and locate the Solar Energy page for more information on how to generate your own solar power.

■ **PAUL MYORS** is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

To talk to Paul about these or other energy efficiency tips call 9966 7985 or go to www.energy.com.au/efficiency

