

Rebates for your home

EARTH FIRST

By PETER WEST, ECCO

Recent Earth First articles have provided information about the environmental and financial benefits of switching to solar for your energy and water heating needs, and on the benefits of properly insulating your home against the elements. Other articles have focused on how to conserve energy, how to reduce water consumption, and that

rainwater tank installation can be a positive addition to your home.

Sometimes it can be difficult to identify what government rebates you are entitled to when installing or retrofitting your home with solar, water saving and energy efficient products. This week's article aims to assist readers to identify and apply for available rebates.

Solar Hot Water

Federal and state government rebates are available for installation of solar hot water systems. The NSW government rebate, through the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, is providing a rebate of between \$300 and \$1 200, depending on the size and type of the hot water system installed. For more details see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates/ccfhws.htm

The Federal Government offers rebates under the Energy Efficient Home Package for solar hot water systems of up to \$1600 when purchased and installed after February 3, 2009 (conditions apply). See: www.environment.gov.au/rebates . Rebates must be applied for within 6 months of installation.

Photovoltaic panel system

Rebates are available through the federal governments Renewable Energy Target Scheme with renewable energy certificates (REC's). For more information, see the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator's website at www.orer.gov.au.

Ceiling insulation

The federal governments Homeowner Insulation Program provides rebates up to \$1 600 for eligible owner-occupiers to install insulation where little or no ceiling insulation currently exists. Under the federal governments Low Emissions Assistance Plan for Renters, rebates are available to eligible landlords and tenants to install insulation in private rentals and other properties (including holiday homes) up to \$1 000. For more information see www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

NSW Government also offers a rebate to cover half the cost of insulation up to a maximum of \$300. For information on insulation rebates from the NSW Government see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates

Renewable energy in remote areas

The federal government is offering large rebates for houses >1km from the mains grid when establishing renewable remote power generation. For more information see www.environment.gov.au/rebates

Shower heads

Orange City Council currently offers a shower head exchange program. For more information, contact the Council or visit www.orange.nsw.gov.au > Environment & Development > Water management.

Rainwater tanks and washing machines

The NSW Government rainwater tank rebates range from \$150 to \$1 500 depending on connections and tank capacity. Size does matter! Rebates of up to \$150 are also available from the NSW Government for new washing machines with at least a 4.5 star water efficiency rating until 30 June 2010. For information on both rebates see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates

The Rainwater and Greywater initiative of the federal government is offering rebates for rainwater and greywater systems up to \$500. For more information see: www.environment.gov.au/rebates

Orange City Council also offers rebates up to \$650 on rainwater tanks. For more information, contact the Council for the rainwater tank and greywater fact sheets, or visit www.orange.nsw.gov.au .

Green loans

Federal governments green loans program aims to assist Australian families to install solar, water saving, and energy efficient products. Loans of up to \$10 000 are available. For more information see: www.environment.gov.au/greenloans

Home energy tips

Further information about passive solar design and many more useful home energy tips visit www.yourhome.gov.au/technical

While care has been taken to ensure these figures and links are current, applicants should confirm eligibility prior to installation, as conditions may change over time.

Green dates for the calendar

Wednesday July 1: ECCO public meeting on the environmental assessment for the proposed Cadia East goldmine. Meet at the ELF building at the Showground, 7pm.