

Solar Savers Adelaide

Eligibility Information January 2017

Your Say
Adelaide

Overview of Solar Savers Adelaide

The Solar Savers Adelaide Program is designed to remove the upfront cost of installing solar PV energy systems for eligible low-income residents or rental households in the Adelaide City Council.

Solar Savers Adelaide involves Council funding the installation of 2kW solar systems. Council will recover the costs for facilitating the supply and installation of the solar systems through a separate rate mechanism applied to the property and paid off in quarterly instalments over a 10 year period by the property owner.

Timeline and key steps

Below is an outline of the key steps of the Program and the expected timeframes:

Step 1: Registration of interest – (April/May 2016)

- Council sought registrations of interest and feedback from residents and landlords for Solar Savers Adelaide. We received 279 responses, with 147 residents and 132 landlords registering their interest in participating in the Program should it go ahead.

Step 2: Council endorsement of Solar Savers Adelaide – (October 2016)

- On 11 October 2016, Council endorsed the Solar Savers Adelaide Program.

Step 3: Eligibility assessment for participation in Stage 1 of Solar Savers Adelaide – January 2017 (Current step)

- Council is contacting each of the respondents who expressed an interest in participating in Solar Savers Adelaide, to determine their eligibility for Stage 1 of the Program.

Step 4: Selection of Stage 1 participants – (February/early March 2017)

- Based on the information provided in Step 3, we will be selecting participants that are eligible for Stage 1.

Step 5: Selection of solar system provider and installer – (March 2017)

- Council will select a solar system provider and installer through a competitive tender process.

Step 6: Pre-installation site visits and quotations – (March and April 2017)

- The solar system provider and installer will undertake a pre-installation site visit to assess the suitability of the property for a solar system and will provide a property-specific quotation.

Step 7: Community consultation and energy awareness – (early May 2017)

- A community consultation process will take place to allow all potential participants to engage with Council, and the solar system providers, in order to ask any questions that they may have about the Program (including the separate rate process).
- Council will also be providing specific energy awareness and advice at key stages throughout the Program.

Step 8: Agreement to participate in Solar Savers Adelaide – (end May 2017)

- Once the households have decided that they would like to participate in the Program, they will sign a contract with Council and the solar system provider and installer.

Step 9: Council endorsement – (June 2017)

- Council will be required to endorse the separate rates mechanism for each specific property that has agreed to take part in Solar Savers Adelaide.

Step 10: Installation of solar systems – (From July 2017)

- The solar systems will be installed by the solar system installer.

Future steps:

- Council will work on the development of Stage 2 and a broader community solar bulk-buy.



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Stage 1 Eligibility

Solar Savers Adelaide has been designed to reduce the barriers to access solar systems for low income households and rental properties. In order to identify where we can best address these barriers, we have developed eligibility criteria to help us assess each household.

Stage 1 will involve the installation of up to 100 solar systems for residential properties with the City of Adelaide.

Properties that are part of a Body Corporate (i.e. Strata Corporation, Community Corporation or Housing Cooperative) will not be included in Stage 1 of Solar Savers Adelaide.

Owner-Occupier eligibility

In order to be eligible as an owner-occupier **ANY ONE** of the following criteria options must be met:

Criteria	Description	Proof required
Criteria Option 1	The owner-occupier is a Commonwealth concession/pension card holder <i>Including: Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card, Health Care Card, Low income Health Care Card</i>	Proof of valid concession/pension card
Criteria Option 2	The owner-occupier receives any of the following income-tested Commonwealth Centrelink payments <i>Including: Newstart, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, Age pension, Pension Loans Scheme, Widow Allowance, Bereavement Allowance, Carer Payment/Allowance, Disability Support Pension, Sickness Allowance, Partner Allowance, Veteran Concession</i>	Proof of receiving Centrelink payments (i.e. email, letter)
Criteria Option 3	The owner-occupier is able to prove that: Household pre-tax income is less than or equal to \$915 per week AND More than 30% of weekly household income is spent on mortgage repayments	Tax Notice of Assessment or other proof from the Australian Tax Office of annual income AND Proof of mortgage expenses

Rental property eligibility

In order to be eligible as a rental property, **BOTH** of these criteria must be met:

Criteria	Description	Proof required
Rental Property Criteria 1	The property is a private residential rental property (this does not include serviced apartments)	Rental agreement with both Landlord and Tenant's name's on the lease
Rental Property Criteria 2	The property owner has provided consent to participate in Solar Savers Adelaide.	Signed Property Owner Consent Form

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How to Confirm Eligibility

You should have received [Eligibility Assessment \(Landlords or Residents\) Form\(s\)](#) or been sent an online link in the communications sent by Council. If not received this, please email solarsavers@adelaidecitycouncil.com to obtain a copy.

Each registrant will be required to confirm eligibility. Please complete and return the relevant form(s) with supporting documents to the Adelaide City Council by **Friday 24 February 2017** using any of these methods:

Online

The survey for those already registered is accessible online at the link sent to you via email. All documents can be attached securely.

Visit yoursay.adelaidecitycouncil.com/solarsavers for more information on the program.

Email

You can send a copy of the completed form and relevant documents via email to solarsavers@adelaidecitycouncil.com

Paper version

Please mail to:
ATTN: Solar Savers
Carbon Neutral Adelaide Team
Adelaide City Council
Reply Paid 2252, Adelaide SA 5001

Or drop off at: the Adelaide City Council Customer Service Centre, 25 Pirie Street

All feedback forms, submissions or correspondence will be acknowledged in writing.

Next steps for rental properties

Tenants

Tenants are required to obtain property owner consent in order to participate in Solar Savers Adelaide. In order to obtain consent you will need to send the property owner a copy of the [Eligibility Information](#) along with [Property Owner Consent Form](#) (potentially through the Property Manager). The property owner will need to send a signed copy of the [Property Owner Consent Form](#) back to Council.

Landlords

If you have registered your interest as a residential rental property owner - it is your responsibility to inform your tenants of your intent to participate in the Solar Savers Adelaide Program. You should also advise any tenants that the next steps would involve a pre-installation site visit to obtain a quote for the solar PV energy system. Please ensure that your tenants are comfortable with this approach.

If you are a landlord with multiple properties, please complete the [Eligibility Assessment – Landlords Form](#) for each property that you registered interest for.

If you are a landlord being sent this from your tenant, you only need to complete the [Property Owner Consent Form](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is proof of eligibility required?

Supporting documents (providing proof of meeting the eligibility criteria) are required to ensure a transparent and robust selection process. Please photocopy, scan or take clear photos of the supporting documentation and submit this information to Council with the completed [Eligibility Assessment Form](#) (either Landlord or Resident).

Who will have access to the information I provide?

The supporting documents provided to confirm your eligibility will be kept confidential and will only be used by the Solar Savers Adelaide Partners to determine your eligibility in the Solar Savers Adelaide program. If you would like to know more about ACC's privacy policy you can find a copy here:

www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/privacy

How was the owner-occupier eligibility criteria developed?

Owner-occupiers are required to provide evidence that they qualify as low income. We have used existing income-tested measures, such as Commonwealth Concession/Pension cards; or Commonwealth Centrelink payments as a means to provide this proof. Should an owner-occupier not hold any Commonwealth Concession/Pension cards, or receive Commonwealth Centrelink payments, they are also able to prove their low income status by demonstrating that:

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- Their household weekly income is less than 80% of the median income for the Adelaide City Council (calculated to be \$915.20), **AND** that
- More than 30% of weekly household income is spent on mortgage payments.

The proof which is required to meet these criteria is explained under 'Stage 1 eligibility – Owner-occupier eligibility'.

If I am eligible for Stage 1 of the Program, what will happen next?

- Council will select a solar system provider and installer through a competitive tender process. The solar system installer will contact the property owner to arrange a suitable time for a pre-installation site visit to assess the suitability of the property for a solar system and to provide a property-specific quotation.
- The property owner will be able to review the quote and take part in a community consultation process, which will allow all potential participants to engage with Council, and the solar system providers, in order to ask any questions that they may have about the Program.
- Only once the households have decided that they would like to go ahead and install a solar system, will they sign a contract with Council and the solar system provider and installer.
- Once these agreements have been signed, a decision on final endorsement for Stage 1 of the Program will be made by Council's elected members at a Council meeting. Participants are welcome to attend that meeting.

What if I am not eligible for Stage 1 of Solar Savers Adelaide?

If you are not eligible for Stage 1 of Solar Savers Adelaide, you may be able to participate in:

- Stage 2 of Solar Savers Adelaide, which is currently being developed by Council;
- The Adelaide City Council Sustainability Incentive Scheme (www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/takeaction); or
- The community solar bulk buy scheme (later in 2017/2018).

What is the Community Solar Bulk Buy scheme?

Council has endorsed investigating a community solar bulk buy. This involves Council undertaking a bulk procurement process to allow those who are not eligible for Solar Savers Adelaide, or those who require larger systems, to purchase solar PV energy systems. Property owners will be required to pay for the solar systems upfront, as the bulk-buy scheme will not be administered through a separate rate mechanism. Council will provide further information on this scheme later in 2017.

What is the Australian Government's National Rental Affordability Scheme?

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is a Commonwealth Government scheme designed to help low and moderate income households rent private accommodation at an affordable rate. Some NRAS properties are managed by registered community housing providers. For more information please visit the Department of Social Services website www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities

What is a serviced apartment?

A serviced apartment is a non-residential furnished apartment available for both short-term and long-term stays. These are often inclusive of utility bills.

For more FAQs please visit the online page yoursay.adelaidecitycouncil.com/solarsavers

Project Contact Person

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