



GROSS FEED-IN TARIFF INFORMATION

Modern Solar is fighting the fight against global warming by helping Australians install photovoltaic system on their homes. With your help, Australia is becoming a cleaner, greener country by the hour.

Global warming is a real threat to our livelihoods. Today, about 80% of Australia's power comes from the burning of black coal, producing massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global warming. Only 8% of the energy we use comes from renewable, clean sources like wind, hydro and solar.

The Federal Government is implementing a number of schemes and procedures to help fight global climate change. The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) will place restrictions on the nation's biggest polluters. The aim is to reduce CO₂ levels to 15% of 2000 levels by 2020.

Gross feed-in tariffs have been very successful in over 40 countries including Germany, Spain and the USA. So successful that people in these countries are installing more solar PV capacity than they can use and then live off the income from selling their power back to the grid.

Australia needs a nationwide, consistent gross feed-in tariff scheme to reward customers who install renewable energy on their properties. Gross feed-in tariffs give all electricity customers the power to save real money on their bills and reduce the rate of global warming. A nationwide, consistent gross feed-in tariff will:

- Help Australia develop a strong clean energy sector and produce thousands of new 'green' jobs. In Germany, the gross feed-in tariff created nearly 250,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector.
- Reduce our reliance on finite resources such as coal and gas; the sun will never 'run out'.
- Businesses won't have to worry about different regulations and standards across states and territories.

BUT government entities and bureaucracies are slow to absorb new ideas, and even slower to act. In order to see real change, they need to know how you feel about the situation. You can write a letter to your local MP expressing your views – after all, Australia is a democracy (see our sample letters outlining the key points). You can find your electorate and MP by going to <http://apps.aec.gov.au/esearch> and entering your postcode. To find out your local MP's mailing address go to [www.aec.gov.au/About/AEC/Contact the AEC/](http://www.aec.gov.au/About/AEC/Contact_the_AEC/), click on your state under the heading 'Divisional Offices' on the left of the screen and then find your electorate in the list.

TIPS FOR WRITING A LETTER

- Make it personal – your letter should look different to the rest. If you have a longstanding interest in the environment, or environmental issues influence the way you vote say that in your letter
- Pick the key messages that work for you and write in a style that suits you.
- You may wish to follow up your letter a week later with a phone call to the MP's office. Ask what the MP thinks about the issue and whether they will take it up with the minister.

Remember, climate change is a very real problem with very real consequences, but if we apply ourselves in the right places we can have a workable, viable solution. Community action is the key – together we can have a clean, green Australia for generations to follow. Now is not the time to delay.

Ron Bayley
Managing Director
Modern Solar

NATIONAL GROSS FEED-IN TARIFF FACT SHEET

Q: What is a feed-in tariff?

A feed-in tariff (FiT) is a payment to electricity customers who generate power from renewable sources and feed some of that power back into the electricity grid. The payment – from your electricity company - rewards consumers who install renewable energy generators such as rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Feed-in tariffs have driven the global rapid growth in renewable energy sources, especially solar PV systems, because they are a powerful financial incentive to switch to clean, green energy.

More than 40 countries already have feed-in tariffs including Germany, Japan, China and the United States.

Q: How much money are we talking about?

Each scheme differs, but typically electricity customers would receive between 40 and 60 cents for every kilowatt hour (kWh) their renewable system produces. If you check your electricity bills, you'll see that's about four times what *you* currently pay for coal-fired electricity!

Q: Why a *national gross feed-in tariff*?

There are two basic types of feed-in tariffs:

- A **gross** feed-in tariff pays the landowner for **every kilowatt of power produced** by a grid-connected, renewable energy system.
- A **net** feed-in tariff only pays for **surplus power actually fed back** into the grid.

Q: Why should Australia have a national gross feed-in tariff?

Some Australian states have their own feed-in tariff schemes, but there is no national program. As a result, Australia lags behind other countries such as Germany which produces 200 times more solar power than we do!

We have the sunshine – in fact, we have more than any other continent – but we don't have the financial incentive of a national gross feed-in tariff.

The experience overseas shows that households will invest in clean, renewable energy if they are rewarded financially for their commitment.

As well as being a practical way for electricity users to help reduce the rate of global warming, it will expand our clean energy industry and create thousands of new 'green' jobs just as the economy needs a boost.

In Germany, the gross feed-in tariff has created nearly 250,000 new jobs in the renewable energy sector – meaning it will soon overtake the country's revered car industry as Germany's number one employer.

YOU CAN HELP BY WRITING TO YOUR LOCAL MP AND TELLING THEM AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NATIONAL GROSS FEED-IN TARIFF SCHEME!

Dear

I'm writing to you today to encourage your government to do more to promote clean energy.

Global warming is a real threat to our livelihoods and all Australian governments need to do something to help ordinary people switch to cleaner sources of power like solar energy.

It's good that governments are considering massive wind farms and hydro electricity stations. But these take years to approve and build.

We have to do something now. Governments need to help households take action immediately.

The best way is to introduce a national gross feed-in tariff scheme that rewards people who install solar panels on their roof. I've read that schemes like this operate in other countries like Germany, Japan, the United States and China.

They pay people to produce clean, renewable energy. They give electricity customers the power to save money and reduce the rate of global warming.

It's a very real and achievable step that ordinary people can take – with a little help from governments.

There are many other good reasons for government to introduce a national gross feed-in tariff:

- It will help Australia develop a strong, clean energy sector and produce thousands of new, 'green' jobs and local expertise.
- It will reduce our reliance on finite resources of coal and gas (because the sun never runs out).
- A consistent, nationwide approach means businesses won't have to worry about different regulations and standards across states and territories.

I urge you to talk to your Energy and Environment Ministers about this issue.

Germany gets half the amount of sunshine as Australia, yet it produces 200 times more solar-generated electricity than we do! That's because Germany rewards people who install rooftop solar energy systems. We should be doing that too!

We need a similar scheme in Australia so ordinary people can do their bit for the environment and their power bills. I'm sure you'd receive a lot of support if you could get the government to bring in such a policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dear

At the next election, I will vote for the party that promises to do more to promote clean energy. Global warming is a real threat to our children and their children, and now is the time to start fixing this problem.

Australian governments need to do something practical to help ordinary people switch to cleaner sources of power, like solar energy.

The best way to help households take immediate action is to encourage them to install solar energy systems. The Federal Government has a scheme that helps people pay for such systems, but we need to go further and introduce a scheme similar to the ones that work well overseas.

Australia needs a national gross feed-in tariff scheme that rewards people who install solar systems and connect them to the main grid. Similar schemes operate in other countries like Germany, Japan, the United States and China.

Basically, people are paid to produce clean, renewable energy. This gives electricity customers the power to save money and reduce the rate of global warming. It's a very real and achievable step that ordinary people can take – with a little help from government.

There are many other good reasons for government to introduce a national gross feed-in tariff: It will help Australia develop a strong, clean energy sector and produce thousands of new, 'green' jobs and reduce our reliance on finite resources of coal and gas.

I urge you to talk to your Energy and Environment Ministers about this issue. I'm sure you'd receive a lot of support if you could get the government to bring in such a policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dear

I've just read that Germany gets half the amount of sunshine as Australia, but it produces 200 times more solar-generated electricity than we do!

With all this talk about global warming and the need to switch to environmentally sustainable energy sources, I can't believe Australia doesn't use the sun to generate more clean, green energy.

We should be generating more solar power than any other country because we get more sunshine than any other continent. It's good for the environment and will create more 'green' energy jobs in Australia. We need governments in Australia to do more to encourage the take-up of solar energy here.

Germany generates much more solar electricity because it rewards people who install rooftop solar energy systems with a payment called a gross feed-in tariff. Schemes like this also operate in Japan, the United States, China and many other countries around the world. We should be doing it too!

In fact, the payment is so successful in Germany that it has created nearly 250,000 new jobs in its renewable energy sector. It will soon overtake the car industry as Germany's number one employer.

At the next election, I will be voting for the party that makes concrete efforts to encourage people to switch to clean, green power. Global warming is a very real threat to our children and we need to start fixing this problem now.

Solar electricity systems are the most practical way for households to switch to environmentally sustainable power. The best way to encourage people to install these systems is to introduce a gross feed-in tariff scheme.

People will be paid to produce clean, renewable energy. They will have the power to save money and reduce the rate of global warming. It's a very real and achievable step that ordinary people can take – with a little help from governments.

It will also help Australia develop a strong, clean energy sector and produce thousands of new, 'green' jobs and local expertise.

I urge you to talk to your Energy and Environment Ministers about this issue.

Yours sincerely,