



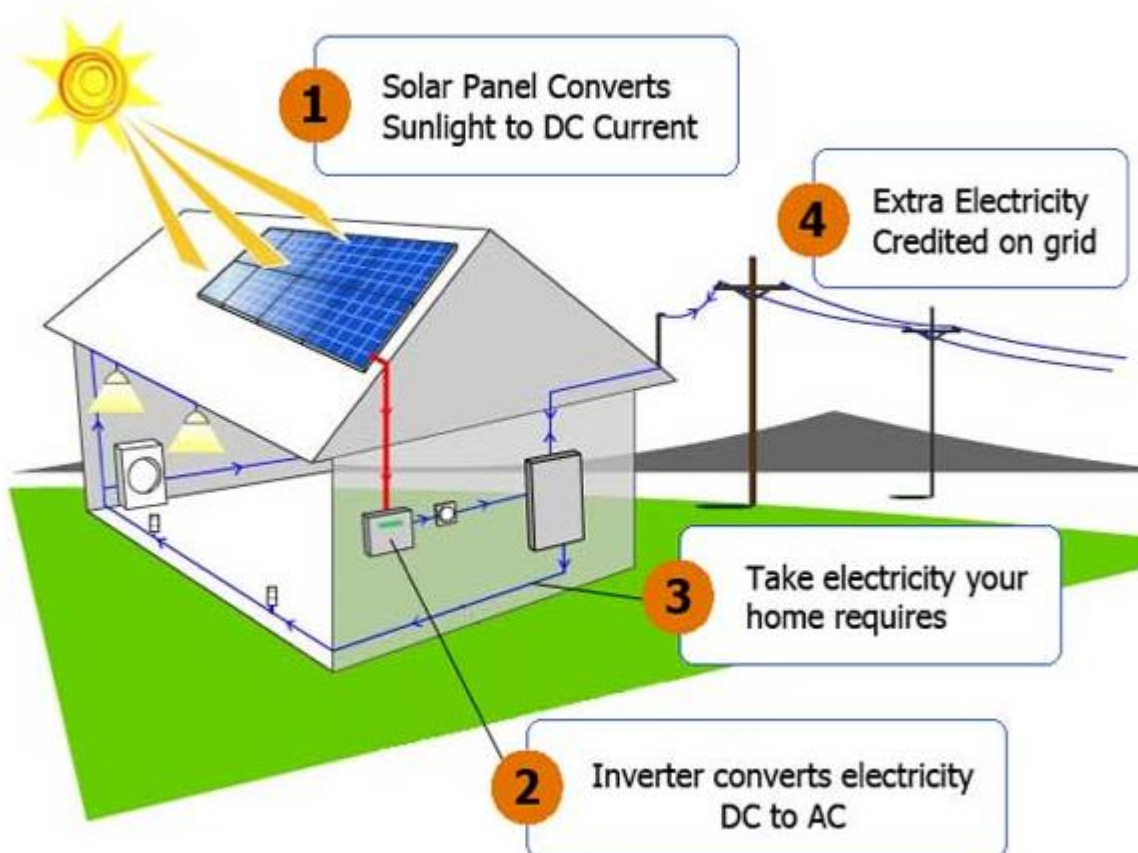
# ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY

Solar PV panels on the roofs of homes and businesses generate clean electricity by converting the energy in sunlight. This conversion takes place within modules of specially fabricated materials that make up the solar panels. It is a relatively simple process that requires no moving parts.

In most cases, solar panels are connected to the mains power supply through a device called an inverter. Solar panels are different to solar hot water systems, which are also mounted on household roof-tops but use the heat from the sun to provide hot water for household uses.

The technology to convert sunlight into electricity was developed in the 19th century, but it was only in the second half of the 20th century that development accelerated behind the need to provide reliable supplies of electricity in remote locations – from satellites in space to outback Australia.

Solar panels have been installed on the rooftops of houses and other buildings in Australia since the 1970s. Currently there are more than 1.25 million small-scale solar panel systems safely and reliably delivering clean electricity across Australia



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# THE BENEFITS OF GOING SOLAR

SOLAR IS THE SMART ALTERNATIVE AND AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENERGY SOURCE

If you look around, even in your own suburb, you will notice many properties are already enjoying the benefits of solar electricity.

Solar power systems have financial benefits that materialise over time. There are initial start-up and set-up costs of a home solar power system, but it's worth looking at the upfront expenditure as an investment, as there are many ongoing benefits for owners that make up for the initial cost.

The first is obvious: as you create your own energy, you use less from the grid and you save on your power bills.

The second is that when your panels generate more electricity than your household requires, the excess electricity can be sold back to the grid.

Thirdly is this initial cost of solar panels as a way of protecting your household against future price increases of electricity produced by more traditional energy sources (coal, oil and gas). As a provider of your own electricity from a renewable source, you can reduce your household's dependence on fossil fuels and energy providers.

Homes with a solar power system installed are far more likely to fetch much higher prices than those run on conventional power sources. Those looking to buy a home will often gladly pay higher prices for homes with solar power systems because they know they will be saving money on electricity for years to come.

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Installing a solar power system at home can reduce your carbon footprint. Unlike traditional sources of electricity from the grid, solar energy is green, clean and renewable. Solar panels release no greenhouse gases and they don't pollute the air. Even the amount of electricity used in the manufacturing process is minimal compared to the electricity saved by using them.

Investing in solar energy is a sound way to increase your property value and save money. The solar power system will end up paying for itself in a few years, and systems are built to last 25 years. Think about how much money you could be saving in that time.

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