



SOLAR WATER HEATER SUBSIDY SCHEME

Scheme Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

The Solar Water Heater Subsidy Scheme (SWHS Scheme) provides rebates for gas-boosted solar water heaters used for residential purposes.

Rebates are available to householders that comply with all requirements and procedures outlined in these guidelines. Applicants may only receive one rebate per household. The current rebate level is:

- \$500 for gas-boosted solar water heaters connected to a reticulated gas network.
- \$700 for bottled LP gas-boosted solar water heaters where reticulated gas is not available.

Rebates are only available for new and complete gas-boosted solar water heaters accredited to the Australian Standard AS2712. Gas-boosted solar water heaters must be fully installed and commissioned before a rebate application is approved.

The SWHS Scheme has been developed and is administered by the Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO). The Scheme is funded by the Government of Western Australia and is expected to run from June 2005 to June 2009, or until funds available are fully committed. Approval of rebates is subject to availability of funds. The rebate amount may be reduced depending on uptake.

Further information, including an application form and a general information brochure, is available from:

Sustainable Energy Development Office
Office of Energy
Level 9 / 197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
Phone: 1300 658 158
Fax: (08) 9420 5699
Email: sedo@energy.wa.gov.au
Web: www.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicant Requirements

1. The applicant must be the householder of the residence where the gas-boosted solar water heater is installed. Criteria number 2 and 3 of these *Guidelines* are the only exception.

2. Builders may apply for a rebate on eligible solar water heaters installed in display homes.
3. Private residential developers may apply for rebates on eligible solar water heaters installed on residential dwellings subject to pre-approval in writing by SEDO for 20 or more solar water heaters in one development.
4. Gas-boosted solar water heaters must be installed in a Western Australian residence.
5. Only one rebate is available per household.
6. After 31 May 2006 all rebate applications pertaining to new homes must be formally pre-approved for a rebate by SEDO prior to claiming the rebate.
7. After 31 May 2006 all rebate applications pertaining to replacement solar water heaters for existing homes must be accompanied with a sales receipt.
8. Applicants must complete and submit an application form with a signed and dated applicant declaration.

Gas-boosted solar water heater requirements

Gas-boosted solar water heaters on which a rebate is sought must be:

9. Family sized systems (250L or more storage capacity and 2.7m² or more collector surface area);
10. Accredited to the Australian Standard for Design and Construction of Solar Water Heaters (AS2712);
11. New, complete systems (i.e. not pre-heating an existing gas storage system) and must be installed and commissioned before a rebate application is made;
12. Designed to meet all relevant plumbing and gas-fitting standards and regulations;
13. Warranted for a minimum of five years with at least one year for all major components. Systems installed in areas that are frost-prone or experience poor water quality should be designed appropriately for such conditions;
14. Pre-approved with SEDO by the principle supplier in WA completing a *Gas-boosted Solar Water Heater Details* form.

Manufacturer, supplier and installer requirements

15. Manufacturers or principle suppliers of gas-boosted solar water heaters in Western Australia must enter and abide by an *Agreement* with SEDO.
16. Gas-boosted solar water heaters must be installed by a licensed tradesperson. The installer should have formal training from the manufacturer or have completed the solar hot water module of the GreenPlumbers program.
17. Installed gas-boosted solar water heaters must meet all relevant plumbing, gas-fitting standards and regulations and relevant building codes and local government requirements.
18. Suppliers and installers should be adequately insured for the work they are carrying out.
19. Rebates will not be available for applications involving suppliers or installers that have breached, or have been involved in a breach of the requirements or spirit of the SWHS Scheme.
20. Suppliers should provide applicants an operation manual, which includes operational procedures, a maintenance schedule and warranty procedures for each gas-boosted solar water heater supplied.

REBATES AVAILABLE

Applicants that fully satisfy the requirements of the SWHS Scheme will be entitled to a rebate of:

- \$500 for gas-boosted solar water heaters connected to a reticulated gas network.
- \$700 for bottled LP gas-boosted solar water heaters where reticulated gas is not available.

The rebate amount may be reduced depending on uptake. Approval of rebates is subject to funds available under the SWHS Scheme.

Rebates will not be available for:

- Replacement parts;
- Commercial or semi-permanent premises, such as tourism facilities, mining facilities, caravan parks and dairies;
- Premises funded by other Government agencies such as Employee Housing, Homeswest and Family and Children's Services;
- Solar water heaters with the element removed, pre-heating an existing gas-storage hot water system;

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The procedure for applying for a rebate under the SWHS Scheme is as follows:

1. The applicant obtains and reads the Scheme Guidelines and a *Solar Water Heater Subsidy Application Form*.

2. The applicant contacts suppliers of gas-boosted solar water heaters to determine the appropriate type and size of system required. SEDO recommends that the applicant contact more than one supplier.
3. The supplier registers the applicant's details for pre-approval after a commitment is made to purchase a solar water heater (*for new homes*).
4. SEDO pre-approves those applications that meet the requirements for pre-approval (*for new homes*).
5. Once the system is installed, the applicant completes the Application Form in conjunction with the installer. The applicant sends the application form to the manufacturer.
6. The manufacturer collects the application and sends to SEDO. SEDO approves those applications that meet the requirements of the Scheme.
7. Payment of the rebate by cheque will usually occur within eight weeks of receipt of a completed application.
8. Rebates will be paid to suppliers on behalf of eligible applicants. The applicant should check with the supplier if the rebate has been applied as an upfront discount or credited after their application has been approved by SEDO.

RIGHTS RESERVED BY THE STATE

Indemnity

The State accepts no liability in respect of any claim or cause of action arising out of, or in relation to, any solar water heater that is the subject of a rebate application. The State is indemnified for any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, a solar water heater that is the subject of a rebate application.

Privacy of information

Personal information collected under this scheme will only be used for the purpose of assessing applications. SEDO may use aggregated data for the purposes of publicly reporting on the performance of the Scheme.

Right to alter scheme guidelines

SEDO reserves the right to change the Scheme guidelines at any time. SEDO reserves the right to reject any application that does not clearly meet the requirements of the Scheme.

Current as at May 2006