



Solar PV Support Programme

FAQs

What are the financial benefits of the Solar PV Support Programme?

When you install a solar energy system on your property through the Action Renewables Solar PV Support Programme, you will save money on your electricity bills and protect yourself against rising electricity rates in the future. How much you can save depends on the current utility rates, and the profile of building usage, but going solar is a smart decision.

As part of this proposal Action Renewables will assume all costs associated with installing a Solar PV system on the roof of your building. Action Renewables will retain ownership and responsibility for maintenance and repair of the system during the projected 20-year lifespan.

What are the environmental benefits of solar energy?

Beyond the financials, the benefits include the supply of green energy generated from your own premises. Solar power, like other renewable energy resources, has many environmental and health benefits. This self-supply of electricity will offset the demand of fossil derived energy reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contribute to climate change, and results in fewer air pollutants like sulphur dioxide and particulate matter, which can cause health problems. Solar PV will offer significant carbon savings to the beneficiary and these green credentials can be celebrated.

How do solar photovoltaic (PV) panels work?

Solar panels absorb the sun's energy throughout the day and convert it into direct current (DC) electricity. Most homes and businesses run on alternating current (AC) electricity, so the DC electricity is then passed through an inverter to convert it to usable AC electricity. At that point, you either use this electricity in your organisation or it gets exported back to the electricity grid.

When you are not using electricity generated by the panels i.e., at night, this electricity is grid sourced i.e., it is imported from the grid and charged at the pence per kWh outlined on your bill from your current supplier.

Do my solar panels produce power when the sun is not shining?

The amount of power your solar PV system can generate is dependent on sunlight. As a result, your solar panels will produce slightly less energy when the weather is cloudy, and no energy at night or when there is snow cover. However, because of rising electricity costs, solar PV is a great option for any organisation looking to save money.

Will the organisation be off grid with solar panels?

When you install solar panels on your property, you will still be connected to the grid. This allows you to draw from the grid when your Solar PV system is not producing, e.g. at night.

What if we mostly use our facilities at night?

As highlighted above the solar panels only generate electricity during the day and none at night. The limitation of Solar PV is balancing generation with demand. If your facility is only used at night, it will still positively impact your baseload demand during the day.

The profile of how you use the building is a key consideration when deciding how much your organisation will benefit from the programme.

How do I find out how much I pay for electricity?

The easiest way to find out how much you pay for electricity (and how much electricity you use per month/quarter) is to look at your electricity bill. Pay particular attention to the quantity of units consumed and the unit price paid.

Charges for electricity from Action Renewables are outlined in the Electricity Supply Agreement your organisation will sign. The Action Renewables Solar PV Support Programme offers savings between 40 – 60% in comparison to most electricity tariffs available (per kWh).

How will I be billed?

Action Renewables will invoice your organisation for the electricity consumed from the Solar PV system. This electricity will be provided at a significantly discounted rate compared to traditionally sourced electricity as outlined in the Electricity Supply Agreement (see above).

Action Renewables will require a monthly meter reading on the 1st working day of each month and will invoice your organisation on either a monthly or quarterly basis, as preferred. Your organisation will retain its current electricity supplier and will note a significant reduction in electricity bills received from them.

When the solar PV system does not generate, your organisation will be utilising grid sourced electricity from your existing supplier, charged at your existing tariff.

Considering the significant and unprecedented energy price increases witnessed lately, the Solar PV system will help insulate your organisation from future price rises.

How can my organisation save even more money?

In addition to installing Solar PV, your organisation could reduce energy costs further by shopping around for a cheaper electricity supplier to significantly reduce the unit cost per kWh you are currently paying. Competitive rates are available and should be pursued annually.

Be more energy efficient by moving your electricity load to the daytime when the panels are generating electricity. For example, move high energy demand tasks to a time during the day such as operating tumble dryers etc enabling you to save more money on your energy bills.

Next steps

- Action Renewables will require your organisation to sign a 20-year Airspace Lease Agreement and Electricity Supply Agreement, both are legal contracts and will be provided separately.
- Action Renewables will undertake a desk-based feasibility study and a site visit where required.
- On receipt of signed contracts, we will then move to the installation stage with your organisation. This includes a competitive tender process and involves engaging with PV installers.
- Please note that any decision to move to the installation stage is dependent on the assessment of site suitability and at management's discretion.
- Please note we are currently operating a waitlist for the programme.