



# Victoria's Household Energy Saving Package

- Building back greener -

**Government:** Victoria

**Region:** Asia-Pacific

**Population:** 6,321,606

**GDP:** \$312 billion

**Sector(s):** Renewable energy

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## Summary

Spending more time at home during the global pandemic has meant higher energy bills for many households. To reduce this burden, the Government of Victoria is investing \$797 million to help residents cover the cost of their bills and make their homes more energy efficient.

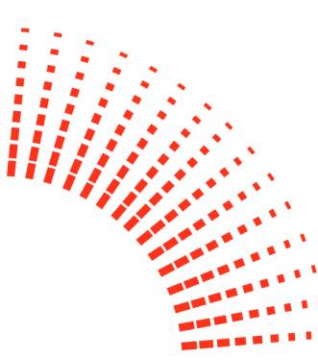
This package will build a fairer and more affordable energy system, delivering programs that provide immediate energy savings to households and small businesses. It is also a key part of the state's transition to a clean energy future.

The investment includes \$335 million to replace old wood, electric or gas-fired heaters with new energy-efficient systems that are safer, cheaper to run and better for the environment.

A further \$112 million will be used to seal windows and doors and upgrade heating, cooling and hot water systems in 35,000 social housing properties – slashing bills and making homes more comfortable.

**\$797 million**

to cover energy bills and make homes more energy efficient



## Household Energy Saving Package

**COVID-19 has meant that people have been spending more time in their homes in 2020 than ever before.** This in turn has led to higher energy bills than usual, especially with large numbers working from home. To reduce this burden, the Government of Victoria announced a \$797 million Household Energy Saving Package to help residents cover the cost of their bills and make homes more energy efficient overall.

This historical package will reach 1.6 million Victorians in total. It will be used to help households pay energy bills, accelerate the Solar Homes Program to meet surging demand and improve the energy efficiency of homes for low income and vulnerable Victorians: providing immediate cost savings as well as long-term environmental benefits.

Victoria's **transformative investment** in improving energy efficiency will not only **stimulate the economy to drive a recovery from COVID-19, but help to establish a more robust response to the ongoing climate crisis and create a healthier future for all people.**

It includes **\$335 million to replace old wood, electric or gas-fired heaters with new energy-efficient systems** that are safer and cheaper to run, as well as being more environmentally friendly. This aspect of the program will be open to low-income earners and will **save 250,000 households between \$300 to \$900 each year on their energy bills.**

A further \$112 million will be used to seal windows and doors and upgrade heating, cooling and hot water systems in 35,000 social housing properties – cutting bills and making homes more comfortable.

**\$14 million will also be spent on expanding the state's existing Victorian Energy Upgrades program:** a rebate scheme for efficient appliances. This will introduce **minimum efficiency standards for rental properties**, which the government estimates will benefit tenants in about 320,000 poor-quality properties. Once completed, the program will help Victoria reach **7-star efficiency standards for new homes, while supporting skills, training and jobs in the construction sector.**

In terms of renewable energy, there are plans to expand Victoria's landmark **Solar Homes Program** which was launched in August 2018 and has supported more than 100,000 households to install power stations on their roofs. **The \$191 million expansion will provide solar panel rebates for an additional 42,000 households and 15,000 rebates for small businesses for the first time.**

Overall, the Household Energy Saving Package will support the economic recovery of Victorian small businesses, create jobs within the solar industry, and improve the living standards of vulnerable households - ensuring that no Victorians are left behind in the state's energy transition.

## Results

- Solar photovoltaics (PV) rebates to be brought forward, bringing the total number of rebates to 65,000 for this year, and 140,000 over the next two years
- 17,500 solar battery rebates over three years and the removal of postcode eligibility requirements. 5,000 battery rebates will be available in 2020-21, with rebates released fortnightly in line with the current schedule of rebate release dates. The current rebate and loan values (\$1850 each) will continue to the end of this financial year (30 June 2021)
- Efficient, lower-cost heating and cooling for 250,000 low-income and vulnerable households
- 15,000 solar PV rebates for Victorian small businesses over the next three years.
- Reduction in household bills for about 320,000 renters state-wide

## More information

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**\$335 million**  
over four years to provide  
efficient, lower-cost  
heating

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“This pandemic has been hard enough without worrying about whether you can pay the power bill. Not only will we help cover that cost – we'll help Victorians make their home more efficient and fight climate change.

**Lily D'Ambrosio,**  
Minister for Energy, Environment  
and Climate Change