



## Factsheet

# Energy Efficient Communities Program - Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020

### Overview

The Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020 stream of the Energy Efficient Communities Program assists businesses and community organisations to improve energy efficiency practices and technologies, and to better manage energy consumption to reduce their power bills through:

- energy generation and storage systems
- equipment upgrades that reduce energy consumption
- energy audits

### What does it offer?

There is an estimated \$3.8 million available for this grant opportunity. The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs. The minimum grant amount is \$1,000. The maximum grant amount is \$12,500.

### How does it work?

The program will open for applications on 2 April 2020. You can submit an application at any time while the grant opportunity remains open.

There will be a maximum of two projects funded per electorate, with the first two eligible projects per electorate funded. An eligible application will not automatically be approved. We will decide which grants to approve taking into account submission time and date and distribution across federal electoral divisions.

Before applying, please ensure you check [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) for updates on your electorate to see if we have already received enough

applications from your electorate. The website will be updated regularly.

### Who can apply?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be an incorporated not-for-profit organisation

You are also eligible if you are a rural fire service, country fire authority or other state/territory equivalent.

Community organisations targeted by the program include:

- community sporting clubs
- scout or guide groups
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups
- surf lifesaving clubs
- community owned kindergartens
- welfare centres
- men's sheds
- community centres
- women's associations
- community owned child care centres
- rural fire services and country fire authorities

### Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a for-profit entity
- a Commonwealth, State, Territory, or local government body (including government business enterprises), unless you are a rural fire service or country fire authority
- an individual
- an educational facility such as primary, secondary schools, tertiary (universities, colleges, TAFE) and/or related entity such as P&C association

- a group that use facilities operating primarily for gambling or the sale of alcohol
- a political party, political organisation, lobbyist or of a political nature
- a military service unit
- any group whose activities unnecessarily seek to exclude individuals or groups of residents by means of a form of discrimination
- a solar installation service provider or associated with a solar installation company
- a group that occupies a domestic residence (except for care facilities that are owned or occupied by community organisations)
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a non-corporate Commonwealth entity

### What activities are eligible?

To be eligible, your project must have at least \$1,000 in eligible expenditure and include one or more of the following:

- design, supply and installation of new solar photovoltaic generator systems
- purchase and installation of new battery systems and battery storage systems
- replacement of existing water heating equipment to new solar hot water heaters or air source hot water heat pumps
- replacement of existing air conditioning equipment to high efficiency split system air conditioning units
- purchase and install Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting equipment or replacement of existing equipment to energy efficient lighting controls
- energy audits

### What additional eligibility requirements are there?

We can only accept applications:

- that include a letter of consent from the building owner/manager (if you are not the building owner/manager)
- that demonstrate that you will use an appropriately licensed and accredited installer
- that include a completed Supplier Declaration from the supplier or installer confirming that the products installations and works meet the eligibility requirements

- where you agree that you will obtain approval for grid connection, where relevant, prior to installing any solar photovoltaic system (if approval is not obtained, grant funding may be required to be paid back)
- that provide at least one current quote for your project that meets the requirements of the program
- that provide the relevant mandatory attachments

### Who is the Clean Energy Council?

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. For Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020 you must use a retailer and products approved and listed on the CEC website for your solar photovoltaic generator system, and an installer that has been accredited by the CEC.

### Who is the Clean Energy Regulator?

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) is an Australian independent statutory authority responsible for administering legislation to reduce carbon emissions and increase the use of clean energy. For the Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020 your solar hot water heater or air source hot water heat pump must be listed on the CER website.

### How will my application be assessed?

We will assess your application for completeness and against the eligibility criteria.

The program delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the application assessment and the availability of grant funds.

### When can I start my project?

You can start your Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020 activities (project) from the date a grant agreement is executed by the Commonwealth. If you choose to start your project before this date, then any costs incurred are at your own risk. You must incur your project expenditure between the project start and end dates to be eligible.

You will not receive any funding if your application is unsuccessful.

### What will I need to do if successful?

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount we will pay.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

If we assess your application as eligible and funds are available, we will collect your nominated bank details to arrange payment.

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement.

### **How do I apply?**

To apply, you must:

- complete the online application form on [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments

### **Where can I find more information?**

For further information refer to the grant opportunity guidelines on [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) or call 13 28 46.