



## 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 LPG-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 Department of Finance - Public Utilities Office. The Scheme is funded by the Government of Western Australia and is expected to run until 1 June 2013, 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.

For further information, including an application form contact:

**Post: Department of Finance  
Public Utilities Office  
WA Solar Water Heater Subsidy Scheme  
Locked Bag 11  
Cloisters Square WA 6850**

**Phone: (08) 6551 1000**  
**Fax: (08) 6551 4765 or (08) 6551 4766**  
**Email: [hotwater@finance.wa.gov.au](mailto:hotwater@finance.wa.gov.au)**  
**Web: [www.finance.wa.gov.au](http://www.finance.wa.gov.au)**

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications to the SWHS Scheme must be received by the Public Utilities Office by 1 June 2013.

**Applications received after 1 June 2013 will not be eligible for the subsidy – without exception.**

Solar water heaters must be purchased and installed within the 12 months prior to a complete rebate application being received by the Public Utilities Office.

### 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 of these *Guidelines* is the only exception.
2. Builders may apply for a rebate on eligible solar water heaters installed in display homes.
3. Gas-boosted solar water heaters must be installed in a WA residence.
4. Only one rebate is available per household.
5. All rebate applications pertaining to *replacement solar water heaters for existing homes* must be accompanied with a sales receipt (tax invoice) which demonstrates system model and type of boosting. The sales receipt must show a nil balance.
6. All rebate applications pertaining to *new homes* must be accompanied with a sales receipt (tax invoice) which demonstrates system model and type of boosting. The sales receipt must show a nil balance.
7. 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:

8. Family sized systems (250L or more storage capacity and 2.7m<sup>2</sup> or more collector surface area).
9. Accredited to the Australian Standard for Design and Construction of Solar Water Heaters (AS2712).
10. 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.
11. Designed to meet all relevant plumbing and gas-fitting standards and regulations.
12. 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.
13. Pre-approved with the Public Utilities Office by the principle supplier in WA completing a *Gas-boosted Solar Water Heater Details* form.

## **Manufacturer, supplier and installer requirements**

14. Manufacturers or principle suppliers of gas-boosted solar water heaters in WA must enter and abide by an *Agreement* with the Public Utilities Office.
15. 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.
16. Installed gas-boosted solar water heaters must meet all relevant plumbing, gas-fitting standards and regulations and relevant building codes and local government requirements.
17. Suppliers and installers should be adequately insured for the work they are carrying out.
18. 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.
19. 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 LPG-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 Scheme Application Form*.

2. The applicant contacts suppliers of gas-boosted solar water heaters to determine the appropriate type and size of system required and an appropriate price. The Public Utilities Office recommends that the applicant contact more than one supplier.
3. Once the system is installed, the applicant completes the application form in conjunction with the installer.
4. The applicant sends the application form to the Public Utilities Office if they are receiving the rebate directly, or to their supplier if the supplier is applying for the rebate on behalf of the applicant. The supplier collects the application and sends it to the Public Utilities Office.
5. Solar water heaters must be purchased and installed within the 12 months prior to a complete rebate application being received by the Public Utilities Office.
6. The Public Utilities Office assesses and approves those applications that meet the requirements of the scheme.
7. Payment of the rebate will usually occur within eight weeks of receipt of a completed application.
8. Rebates will be paid directly to eligible applicants or 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 is to be credited after their application has been approved by the Public Utilities Office.
9. All applications must be submitted to the Public Utilities Office by 1 June 2013. Applications submitted after this date will no longer be eligible for the subsidy – without exception.

## **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. The Public Utilities Office may use aggregated data for the purposes of publicly reporting on the performance of the scheme.

### **Right to alter scheme guidelines**

The Public Utilities Office reserves the right to change the scheme guidelines at any time. The Public Utilities Office reserves the right to reject any application that does not clearly meet the requirements of the scheme.