

## **Taskforce Helpful Hints – Solar Installation, a Booming Industry**

With the escalating demand for energy, cost of fossil fuel and carbon dioxide emissions, more home and business owners across the world are seeing the sun from whole different light. Solar energy is the heat and light from the sun that are strapped together by photovoltaics which is the technique of converting this type of energy into electricity. This is made possible by certain semiconducting materials that demonstrate photovoltaic effect. A photovoltaic system used solar panels that are made up of solar cells.

You might be wondering why there's a hype on solar energy. As an individual who consumes electricity, it would pay to know the rewards that come with having a solar power system installed:

- Solar installation is a booming industry these days because solar energy is drawn from the sunlight which is an extremely abundant and extensively-distributed energy source. Hence, it is free. Consumers only have to purchase solar panels and install them on a sun-drenched location. It is a brilliant idea to have solar panels installed if you're looking to reduce utility costs.
- Unlike oil and gas, it is infinitely renewable. You can generate electricity as long as the sun shines.
- The conversion of solar energy to electricity does not produce gases such carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Therefore, it is a clean source of energy that does not contribute to climate change.
- Homes and small businesses using renewable sources are entitled for the Australian solar credits program.
- In case of power outage you can still use electronics because solar energy can be stored in batteries.
- A solar power system can increase the market value of your home because it offers buyers a chance to save on heating and cooling.

If you have made a decision to invest in a solar power system, the next crucial step involves selecting the suitable solar installer. As mentioned earlier, solar installation is a thriving industry so it won't be hard to find people selling and installing solar power systems. But keep in mind that this is a substantial investment; one that should be taken with enormous caution. Here's the list of the most important things to check before signing a contract with the solar installer:

- They must have a certification from the Clean Energy Council of Australia (CEC). It is a proof that they have accomplished the accreditation program

and have met the requirements to ensure safe and effective service. Also, ask if they have liability insurance and warranty.

- Make sure that you are not their first customer because you will want the installation to be accomplished correctly the first time. If you do not want your property to become their training site, request for references. If possible visit the site of their previous project to verify the quality of their service.
- Ask questions that are relevant to the project. If the installer is able to explain everything comprehensively, it means they are serious about their business. Furthermore, as a consumer, you need to completely understand how the system works.
- Go over the long-term service policy. Inquire about the duration that they will provide service to the unit for free and the repairs and replacement that they will cover.

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