

FACT SHEET

What is Solar My School?

Lots of schools want solar power but are not sure where to start. Solar My School is a free Council program to help local schools navigate an easier path to solar success and reap the environmental and financial benefits.

Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick councils are jointly running this program in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney.

How does it work?

With Solar My School, Council staff provide direct support for primary schools and high schools to choose the right sized solar power system and set them up with a reliable installer.

We make it easy for schools to install solar so the school doesn't have to worry about any of the complex, technical decisions like selecting the size of the system, type of panels, or warranties. We also provide educational materials to teach students about the benefits of solar.

Already over 15 schools, including Kincoppal Rose Bay, Bronte Public School and Bellevue Hill Public School, are on their way to installing solar power with this program.

Why Solar My School?

Schools are ideal sites for solar because they use energy during the day when the sun is pumping out its energy-generating rays. When you can use the power at the time it's created, it's free!

Switching to solar energy helps reduce our environmental impact, and also helps schools to cut energy expenses. Schools can then funnel the savings into new equipment or projects. There are also great educational benefits for students and the wider parent community, and opportunities to showcase your school as an environmental leader.

For Council, this program strongly supports our mission to reduce carbon emissions across the region, and enable the community to access renewable energy.

Why is it a good time to go solar?

Solar power prices have decreased by 80 per cent over the last 10 years, so there's never been a better time to go solar from a financial viewpoint. Solar projects are also currently eligible for Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs) from the Federal Government which provides an upfront discount of around 40-45 per cent.

The STC scheme is reviewed regularly, so it's best to act quickly to avoid any changes to the scheme that might limit the discount.



What do we offer?

We provide free face-to-face assistance, independent technical and contractual documentation as well as communications support, to help you from go to woe:

1. **Analyse your electricity consumption & use patterns.**
2. **Identify the best size and location for solar panels and calculate how much energy they would generate.**
3. **Estimates on cost, savings and financial incentives available.**
4. **Free independent report (valued at \$1,000) from a specialist solar consultant.**
5. **Advice on funding options and repayment mechanisms.**
6. **Engage with broader school community and present to your Building Committee or Board.**
7. **Technical and contractual assistance to obtain quotations and select a quality system from a trusted solar installer.**
8. **Educational materials for students with a teaching kit linked to the curriculum.**
9. **Promote your school's solar project widely.**

Solar My School pathway

	Assess feasibility	Investigate financial models	Select a solar installer	Install and maintain	Educate and promote
KEY STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity consumption and usage patterns Solar size and location Roof structure Energy produced Estimated cost Payback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upfront purchase Loan Power purchase agreement (PPA) Donations Community investors groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reputation Experience Price Product quality, compatibility Warranty Accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail agreement Connection agreement Government rebates System maintenance System performance monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch project Curriculum Community engagement Business engagement Role model for local community
COUNCIL ASSISTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective advice Face-to-face meetings Feasibility study Structural roof assessment <p>START</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding advice and support Donation platform Link school to community investor groups <p>MONTH 1–2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical specification Contract preparation Tender evaluation <p>MONTH 2–3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance included in model contract and technical specification <p>MONTH 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local media Council media channels Schools engagement <p>MONTH 4</p>

What's involved in doing a solar assessment report?

We organise an independent solar consultant to visit your school at a convenient time, to look at the roof space and electrical infrastructure. All you need to do is provide site access (up to a few hours) and complete a Letter of Authority form for them to access your electricity data online. It's that simple.

We'll then send you a short report that recommends the best size and location for solar panels, as well as indicative costs, estimate annual bills savings and payback period. Schools have found this report very useful in their decision-making.

How long will the whole process take?

The whole process pathway can take as little as a three-four months

from the initial meeting to system completion.

How much does a system generally cost?

It depends on the size of the solar power system. Our free independent solar assessment report will provide you with information on the appropriate sized system for the school roof space available and the school's electricity use, as well as estimate costs and payback periods. A typical payback period for a school is five-six years.

Do you provide financial support for installing solar power?

We provide advice on the types of financial assistance available, and can support fundraising activities.

Is there a contractual commitment with Council for this program?

No. You can cease participation in the program at any time. However, we just ask that there is some level of serious commitment to follow-up next steps once a feasibility study is undertaken and adhere to the timelines in the pathway above.



How do we register?

It's super easy! If you haven't already made contact, email us at nicola.saltman@waverley.nsw.gov.au or phone **9083 8023**. We will organise a face-to-face meeting with you and other decision-makers in the school to discuss the program and answer any of your questions. Visit reduceyourfootprint.com.au/projects/solar-my-school.