

GAWLER TRANSITION TO SOLAR

Transition Gawler is offering an introduction to a bulk buy and installation program of PV Solar systems to residents of Gawler and surrounding areas. This program will use the power of numbers and generous concessions from the supplier to make solar more accessible and affordable to local residents.

Introduction

This program has been presented with the support of local business and Transition Gawler member, Down to Earth Sustainable Solutions (DTE). **It is important to note that all information and services provided through this program are supplied by Down to Earth, NOT by Transition Gawler.**

Transition Gawler are simply providing the introduction to Down to Earth for its members. It is important that all residents undertake their own investigations and obtain comparison quotes from other suppliers before deciding to proceed. While all care has been taken by Transition Gawler, this introduction to DTE does not imply any warranty or liability on the behalf of Transition Gawler.

What to expect

Initial no-obligation consultation on-site with Down to Earth consultants includes:

- On-site inspection and advice on PV system, including suggested location and sizing of system
- Energy efficiency advice to reduce energy use (provided free of charge to help achieve Transition Gawler goals)

If you decide to go ahead:

- Bulk buying discount on certain PV system configurations of high-quality components. It should be noted that difficult or out-of-ordinary installations may not be eligible for the full bulk-buy discount, however DTE will endeavour to provide the best possible price.
- Complete fixed price installation and connection service including approval to connect from SA Power Networks. An additional cost for electricity meter changeover is issued directly to the householder by SA Power Networks (SAPN) and fees are as following, \$314.60 inc. GST for single phase meters or \$679.80 inc. GST for three phase meters.
- Installation by fully accredited premium installers
- Post installation paperwork
- Free Transition Gawler door snake
- Satisfaction survey
- Depending on the system chosen, free energy generation tracking both individually and as a group online will be available.

Please note that purchasers are entering a commercial agreement with DTE (not Transition Gawler) and after the original information session, all interaction will be with staff from DTE or its sub-contractors, not Transition Gawler.

Approximate costing and system details (dependent on final numbers and system chosen)

We offer a variety of inverter choices, together with a premium Chinese made panel (final panel choice will depend on the best panel available at bulk-buy prices at the time, but likely to be Trina, Yingli or similar).

SolarEdge inverters and micro-optimisers. SolarEdge technology allows for improved performance in shaded situations, and more flexibility in panel placement. There is also advanced web-based monitoring (internet connection required), accessible to the householder, and aggregate (anonymous) information will be placed on the Transition Gawler website to measure the success of the program. SolarEdge equipment comes with a 12 year warranty, extendable to 25.

Enphase is a micro-inverter system, also offering the monitoring, shade and flexibility benefits, and also converting solar power directly at the panel into useable 240V AC power. There is a 25 year warranty on the micro-inverters in this system.

These two systems offer around 5-20% better performance over the life of the system than conventional inverters (20% applies in shaded situations).

SMA is a premium German conventional inverter that comes with a five year warranty, extendable to 10.

Power One is Italian and also has a five year warranty. Web monitoring does not come included with this equipment but can be supplied for additional cost.

	2kW system		3kW system	
	Bulk buy price	\$/Watt	Bulk buy price	\$/Watt
SolarEdge/				
Enphase	\$4350	\$2.18	\$5490	\$1.83
SMA	\$3815	\$1.81	\$4760	\$1.59
Power One	\$3475	\$1.74	\$4395	\$1.47

A deposit of \$2000 would be required to enable equipment purchase, and systems would generally be installed within two weeks of obtaining the numbers for the bulk-buy (generally a good price can be obtained with purchase of 10 systems at once).

Purchasers are required to transfer ownership of Small-scale Technology Certificates to DTE (standard practice for all solar installs). An explanation of the STC system can be found at <http://green-bank.com.au/stc-trading/certificates-explained/>

Additional installation costs will be incurred in the following situations:

- three phase power to the site
- two storey house
- solar panels installed on more than one roof aspect
- sites with difficult access requiring lifting equipment hire
- locations a significant distance out of Gawler

System size

We will be recommending systems of 2kW or 3kW. These systems will generally cover a household's daily usage without much export to the grid. Smaller solar systems are lower in price, are less dependent on variable government renewable energy policy and are kinder to our aging electrical distribution infrastructure. Minimal or zero export to the grid will provide the best return to the end user.

If the government decides to abolish the Renewable Energy Target as has been speculated recently, the STC rebate will be removed which would make a 2kW system about \$1500 or 3kW system \$2300 more expensive.

About Down to Earth

Down to Earth has been run by Tom and Rachel Brdanovic since 2010. We are local Gawler residents on the steering committee of Transition Gawler. Tom is an accredited solar designer who has worked for major solar retailers in the past. He uses his connections with wholesalers to enable us to provide quality value-for-money solar PV systems. Recently we installed the donation-funded 10kW system at Gawler Community House. Previously we have assisted Charlesworth Nuts in Marion and Barossa Vintners in Tanunda, amongst others, to obtain funding assistance and design their large commercial solar PV systems, and together with our primary installation company Peace of Mind Electrical, we have installed many household and commercial solar PV systems.

Contact Down to Earth Sustainable Solutions on info@dtess.com.au. 0407 775 868 (Rachel) and 0411 403 257 (Tom)

For further information on Transition Gawler visit www.transitiongawler.org or <https://www.facebook.com/TransitionGawler>