

Solarising Churches: A Practical Guide for Uniting Churches in NSW

Prepared by the Uniting Earthweb Group

Are you interested in reducing your church's reliance on fossil fuels and contribution to climate change?

One way to do this is to generate your own solar electricity. Developments in government policy have now put this within the financial reach of more churches in NSW.

Thanks to the State Government's new gross feed-in tariff, owners of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems can now receive a premium for all of the renewable electricity that they produce. There has never been a better time for churches in NSW to go solar.

What are the other benefits of going solar?

A solar PV system on your church's roof would:

- Be a concrete, practical expression of your church's environmental responsibility and concern
- Provide an opportunity to engage with congregants and the local community on environmental issues
- Protect your church from inevitable increases in electricity costs

How much will a solar system cost?

Our calculations suggest that solar PV systems up to 10 kilowatts in size pay for themselves in less than seven years. After this time, they earn an income for the church.



What is included in the Solarising Churches guide?

The Solarising Churches guide includes:

- Information about solar PV systems
- Planning considerations
- Solar system finances, including information on incentives and indicative costs
- Guidance for choosing an installer
- Information relevant to households as well as to churches

Download your copy from:

www.unitingearthweb.org.au/files/SolarisingChurches.pdf.



What about solar hot water?

Another way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with your church's buildings is to install solar hot water or a heat pump at your church's manse. The guide provides information about planning, costs and suppliers/installers.

Who produced the guide?

The guide has been prepared by the Uniting Earthweb Group (UEG). Uniting Earthweb is a network of Uniting Church people within NSW and the ACT who work for a greater connection between ecology and Christian faith and practice. The UEG is a small group of Uniting Church members who meet regularly to help support the development of Uniting Earthweb. Learn more about Uniting Earthweb and access our resources by going to www.unitingearthweb.org.au. You can also sign up for our monthly e-bulletin, packed with news from across NSW and the ACT.

Does the Uniting Earthweb Group offer any further support to help churches to go solar?

UEG is able to provide phone support for your church as you investigate options for a solar PV system. We are also available to speak in person about solarising churches at Presbytery meetings in the Sydney area. Contact us on 0447 730 772 or info@unitingearthweb.org.au.