

How to read your electricity bill

Being able to read and understand your energy bill is important for knowing exactly how much energy you use each quarter. This will help you to manage your electricity use and may prompt you to identify ways to save energy. If you have a Solar PV system installed, you can see how much electricity you have exported to the grid and the value of that export.

Knowing how to read your power bill can also help you to:

- Assess whether you have earned a 10:10/20:20 reward payment; and
- If you are on the Cost Reflective Tariff trial (CRT), whether or not you are eligible to claim the No Worse off Safety Net rebate.

Refer to our separate fact sheets for instructions about how to claim a 10:10/20:20 initiative payment or a CRT No Worse-off Safety net.

Understanding the layout of your electricity bill

Look at the back of the bill. Depending on what type of Alice Solar City incentives you are participating in, your bill may include charges for water and sewerage as well as electricity, or it may be for electricity only.

As well as being charged for your electricity consumption you are also charged a daily usage fee for each day that the electricity is connected. This is a standard charge applied to all householders. The details and cost of this fixed daily charge will be set out on a separate line. Please note that the fixed daily charge is not based on your consumption.

Your electricity bill will have a number of different rows depending on what tariff structure you are on. There will be one or more lines setting out your electricity consumption details and costs. As an Alice Solar City participant, you will be on one of the following types of bills:

- Standard flat tariff;
- Cost Reflective Tariff only; or
- Cost Reflective Tariff and Solar PV.

Standard tariffs

If you have a regular single phase meter and are on the standard flat rate tariff there will be two rows on the bill. The first row will show the details of the electricity consumed during the period covered by the bill. It will set out the number of kilowatt hours (kWh) consumed, the tariff i.e. the cost per kWh in dollars and the cost of the electricity consumed. The second row will show the time period covered by the bill, the total number of days covered by the bill, the fixed supply rate and the total charge for the fixed supply. See the sample bill below.

DESCRIPTION	METER NO	BILLED DAYS	CURRENT READING	PREVIOUS READING	CONSUMPTION (kWh / k L) USAGE x RATE	TYPE	READ TYPE	YOUR ACCOUNT CALCULATIONS AV. DAILY CHARGE	AMOUNT
Service Charges									
Electricity	73299	87	97846	96443	1403X0.183099	DOMESTIC	Normal Reading	\$2.95	\$256.89
Supply Charge									
Service ID:10100010		17/11/2009	11/02/2010		FIXED DAILY CHARGE	87 days x \$0.361100			\$31.42

If you have three phase power you are likely have a row for each of the three meters, plus a fourth for the fixed daily supply charge.

Cost Reflective Tariff

If you are on the Cost Reflective Tariff trial (CRT), the details of your consumption will appear on two lines. The first line will set out the details and charge for your Off-Peak consumption (this is the electricity consumed between the hours of 6pm and 9am Monday to Friday, and 6pm Friday to 9am Monday). The next line will set out the details and charge of your Peak Consumption (this is the electricity consumed between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday). You will also have a row for the fixed daily supply charge. See the sample bill below.

DESCRIPTION	METER NO	BILLED DAYS	CURRENT READING	PREVIOUS READING	CONSUMPTION (kWh / k L) USAGE x RATE	TYPE	READ TYPE	YOUR ACCOUNT CALCULATIONS AV. DAILY CHARGE	AMOUNT
Service Charges									
Lot 8799,2 SUNSHINE DR,ALICE SPRINGS, NT 0870,AUS									
9860	34	861	00000000	653.37X0.153498	OFF PEAK	Normal Reading	\$2.94	\$100.29	
9860	34			207.17X0.272700	PEAK	Normal Reading	\$1.66	\$56.50	
Supply Charge									
Service ID:1015125		28/10/2009	30/11/2009		FIXED DAILY CHARGE	34 days x \$0.361100			\$12.28

Cost Reflective Tariff and Solar PV

If you have a solar PV system installed on your roof, your bill will also have details of the total amount of electricity generated and energy exported to the grid.

Your bill will have rows for your off peak and peak consumption and your fixed daily charge as per the Cost Reflective Tariff bill example above. There will also be rows showing the amount of electricity (kWh) exported to the grid and the amount that you have been 'paid' (in the form of a credit) for that generation – this is known as the 'feed-in tariff'. One row sets out the value of this based on PWC's contribution to the feed-in tariff (this is the same rate that your Peak consumption tariff); a second row sets out the value of based on Alice Solar City's PWC's contribution to the feed-in tariff (this is a fixed rate of 22.65 cents / kWh). See the sample bill below.

DESCRIPTION	METER NO	BILLED DAYS	CURRENT READING	PREVIOUS READING	CONSUMPTION (kWh / k L) USAGE x RATE	TYPE	READ TYPE	YOUR ACCOUNT AV. DAILY CHARGE	CALCULATIONS AMOUNT
Service Charges									
Lot 7142,2 SUNSHINE DR,ALICE SPRINGS, NT 0870,AUS									
Electricity	180264	91	2886	00000000	2430.21X0.153488	OFF PEAK	Normal Reading	\$4.09	\$373.03
	180264	91			455.67X0.272700	PEAK	Normal Reading	\$1.36	\$124.26
	180264	91	-1053	00000000	-1052.62X0.272700	SOLAR EXPORT PWC	Normal Reading	-\$3.15	\$287.05
Supply Charge									
Service ID:10100052	01/09/2009	30/11/2009			SOLAR EXPORT ASC \$0.226500 per bill x -1053				-\$238.50
Service ID:10100052	01/09/2009	30/11/2009			FIXED DAILY CHARGE 91 days x \$0.361100				\$32.86

In all of the examples above, if a change to the electricity tariff occurred during the billing period (this typically occurs on the 1 July each year but can happen at other times), your bill will show extra lines i.e. a line for the time leading up to, and after the date of the price change.

Still confused?

Understanding you electricity bill can be confusing. Feel free to bring you bill to the Smart Living Centre – we’ll be happy to explain how to read your electricity bill in person.