

Media Release

Gold Medal for Australian Solar

New data released today by the REC Agents Association (RAA) shows nearly four million Australians have solar panels or solar hot water on the roofs of their homes and businesses.

“Australia has won the gold medal for household solar”, said Ric Brazzale, President of RAA (a body that represents creators and traders of renewable energy certificates).

“Australia installed more residential rooftop solar panel systems in 2011 than any other country.”

A RAA fact sheet released today uses Clean Energy Regulator data to show that 1.5 million solar systems – solar hot water and solar panels - have been installed, and have created renewable energy certificates. That is equivalent to 1,700 megawatts of installed PV capacity. The Australian Bureau of Statistics states the average household size is 2.5 people.

“Australia should dedicate this gold medal to the Renewable Energy Target, which has helped deliver solar to ordinary Australians”, said Mr Brazzale.

“Recognition must go to the Howard Government for having the vision to establish a world-leading Renewable Energy Target, to the Rudd Government for increasing that target four-fold and to the Gillard Government for delivering on the promise of the Renewable Energy Target.”

“Whilst four million Australians now have solar on their roofs, many more Australians are keen to get on board. The Renewable Energy Target must be maintained, expanded and extended over time to help deliver solar to all Australians.”

The RAA Fact Sheet can be found at www.recagents.org.au

For further information, please contact Ric Brazzale on 0419 522 659 or Fiona O’Hehir on 03 9845 3007.

16 August 2012

FACT SHEET No 1

Updated: 15 August 2012



Solar Systems creating RECs

Highlights:

- 1.5 million solar systems installed and creating Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
- 1,700 MW of installed PV capacity
- nearly 18% of Australian families have a solar system

Small-scale renewable energy is supported under the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Scheme and many Australian households have embraced renewable energy by purchasing a solar power or solar hot water system.

The Clean Energy Regulator releases information on the number of systems that have created renewable energy certificates on a quarterly basis. This Fact Sheet will be updated as new information becomes available.

The following figures summarise the number of systems that have created certificates since the RET Scheme came into force on 1 April 2001. Note that not all systems installed will have created certificates so the figures below will understate the level of system installations to date.

Systems creating Certificates (as at 30 June 2012)

Small Generation Units

Solar Panel (Deemed)	753,844 systems	1,671,489 kW
Wind (Deemed)	370 systems	1,326 kW
Hydro (Deemed)	13 systems	21 kW
	754,227 systems	1,672,836 kW

Solar Water Heater

Solar Water Heater (SWH) - Solar	590,311 systems
SWH - Air Sourced Heat Pump (ASHP)	153,531 systems
	743,842 systems

Market Penetration Rate

	Number of Dwellings	Solar PV	Solar Water Heater	Total
Number of Systems		753,844	743,842	1,497,686

Housing Type

Separate or semi-detached (owner occupied)	5,235,300	14.4%	14.2%	28.6%
Separate or semi-detached dwellings	7,479,000	10.1%	9.9%	20.0%
Total Households	8,398,500	9.0%	8.9%	17.8%

Note: Dwelling data from ABS for 2009-10 (2012 Yearbook, 1301.0) and based on 70% of dwellings being owner occupied.

The REC Agents Association represents the interests of Registered Agents under the Renewable Energy Scheme. Please refer to our website: www.recagents.asn.au