

## **Small-Scale PV Power Generation A Fair Feed in Tariff**

**The Electricity companies need to pay an equivalent price for the power exported to the grid by small-scale solar PV units as they are charging for the power they provide to residential customers in order for a fair and reasonable balance to be created in the provision of electrical power within NSW particularly in the face of the Government's proposed attempts to reduce Green House Gas emissions to ameliorate the effects of Climate Change on this planet.**

### **Is this fair?**

The major energy companies currently pay a minimum price for the power generated by householders via small-scale solar PV units in NSW, who are not covered by the NSW Government's Solar Bonus Scheme

- AGL pays 8 cent/kWh;
- Origin pays 6 cents/kWh;
- **Integral (Origin) pays nothing at all!!!**

These companies currently charge residential customers 21.85 cents per kWh plus 59.85 cents per day System Access Charge.

In November 2000 Integral Energy sent its customers a notice stating that System Access Charges would be separately itemised on its accounts from 31st December 2000 with the following explanation:

**"In the same way that phone companies separate their line maintenance costs, from the costs of the calls you make, we have separated the costs of getting the electricity to your home, from the cost of the electricity you use. The System Access Charge will cost you 16.4cents per day (GST exclusive)."**

**The power that is being exported to the grid by solar power producing customers of Integral (Origin) Energy without payment by this company is being sold to neighbouring customers for 21.85 cents per kWh profit. That is not fair. That is robbery!**

As the power companies already have in place a system that separates power usage from line and infrastructure maintenance and costs, (and are not backward in increasing these costs at regular intervals), they cannot honestly argue that to pay a fair and reasonable amount to customers (who are in effect already saving the government the cost of a new coal or gas fired power station by exporting the excess power they have produced to the grid) would adversely affect their abilities to maintain lines and equipment.

A **fair** feed in tariff for the power companies to pay those customers who have invested in the infrastructure necessary to produce electricity via solar power (generously subsidised by the Australian Government as is the cost of a conventional power station), would be equivalent to the price they charge all residential customers for using the electricity provided to their homes.

And remember that Australia has committed to dramatically reducing its green house gas emissions. To do so wouldn't it be wiser to make the most of the ordinary citizens' willingness to do the right thing by the planet and their community? Encourage more use of sustainable technologies rather than continuing what is happening now - the effective penalisation of small-scale providers of solar power ?

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1.575 kWh Solar System installed by Blue Mountains Solar on 16th June, 2011  
Net Meter installed for Integral (Origin) Energy on 8-8-2011

Currently Integral is **charging** me for energy I have **exported** to the grid!!! Definitely not happy about this situation that I hope will be rectified soon!