

*The benefits of*

# Solar Electricity

## Costs and savings

**Costs** for installing a solar electricity system have come down quite a bit in recent years. Solar electricity systems can cost in the region of **£4,000 to £5,000 per kWp installed**, but costs per kWp should reduce as system size increases.

**Savings** can be considerable - around £200 off your annual electricity bills. **If the system is eligible to receive the Feed In Tariff it could generate savings and income of around £1,100 per year.**

## Selling your own electricity

You can make money on excess electricity by selling it back to the Grid through a scheme called Feed in Tariffs (FITs).

## Free Solar PV schemes

A number of companies are now offering free solar PV to customers in return for the income generated through FITs.



## Generate cheap, green electricity from sunlight

Solar electricity systems capture the sun's energy using photovoltaic (PV) cells. The cells convert the sunlight into electricity, which can be used to run household appliances and lighting.

PV cells don't need direct sunlight to work - you can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day.

## How do photovoltaic (PV) cells work?

PV cells are panels you can attach to your roof or walls. Each cell is made from one or two layers of semiconducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced.

PV cells come in a variety of shapes and colours, from grey "solar tiles" that look like roof tiles to panels and transparent cells that you can use on conservatories and glass.

The strength of a PV cell is measured in kilowatt peak (kWp). That's the amount of energy the cell generates in full sunlight.

## Help and Advice

**For more information** on home energy generation technologies, contact your local Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre on Tel: 0800 512 012.

