ADVERTISING FEATURE | GO SOLAR

Important decisions to make

GOING solar isn't as simple as installing a device on your roof and flicking a switch.

There are several key aspects you need to take into account to ensure you get the right solar system to best meet your needs.

With electricity prices set to continue rising, your first consideration should be your power consumption and how you can counter the impact of energy price increases by being as energy-efficient as possible.

Industry specialist TCK Solar always starts the decision-making process by asking potential clients about their quarterly power bills or average electricity usage.

In most cases it's obvious where they can make immediate savings.

On reaching the point where you've reduced your electricity consumption as best you can, you are ready to accurately assess the size of the solar system you require to further reduce, or even eliminate, your electricity bill.

Every household has different needs.

Homes that are mainly empty during the day probably need a smaller system than others. Retired couples or home businesses invariably use more power.

Homes that are mainly empty during the day need a smaller system

TCK Solar recommends you have at least one third of your annual electricity needs produced by solar in order to benefit from the system. In situations where people are at home during the day, that figure increases to about 50 per cent of your annual electricity needs.

In some cases it is possible to install a system capable of producing 100 per cent of your annual electricity needs, giving you considerable financial and environmental peace of mind.

Some electricity providers increase their daytime rate once a solar system has been installed.

You can avoid the impact of this by ensuring your system is large enough to meet your daytime needs.

In situations where the system is too small for the household's daytime requirements, the electricity bill might end up higher than before you installed a solar system.

When installing a system, the orientation of the panels and exposure to shading are very important aspects.

The ideal installation is on a north-facing roof with no shading. If this can't be done on your roof, TCK Solar can quantify for you the difference in performance of your potential system compared to a true north orientation.

For more information, visit TCK Solar at www.tcksolar.com.au

Power up: Solar hot water saves up to 30 per cent on power bills.