CHANGING FROM
GROSS TO NET
METERING

For Origin customers affected by the
the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme closure

The NSW Solar Bonus Scheme ended on 31 December 2016. If you’re an Origin customer with gross metering, and you used to be on a solar feed-in tariff of 20c/kWh or 60c/kWh under the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme, this information is for you.

We’ll explain:
✓ the difference between gross and net metering,
✓ upgrading to a remotely read digital meter that’s able to switch to net metering, and
✓ why changing over to net metering is a good way to minimise the impact of the closure of the Solar Bonus Scheme and continue to get the most out of your solar system.
What is gross metering?
Gross metering solar systems have been set up to send all the solar power they generate to the grid.
This means you pay for all the energy you use in your household – and receive a payment (or a ‘feed-in tariff’) for the solar energy your system feeds back into the grid.

Here’s how gross metering works:

1. Your solar system uses sunlight to generate electricity.
2. Your gross generation meter measures all of the electricity produced by your solar system, and sends it to the electricity grid.
3. Your consumption meter measures all the electricity that you’ve consumed in your home.

What is net metering?
Net metering solar systems are set up to send energy to your household first, before sending the excess energy back into the grid.
That means only solar energy that’s not used in your home is sent to the grid – and you receive a payment (or ‘feed-in tariff’) for that excess. A net meter records the excess solar your system generates, as well as the amount of electricity your household takes from the grid.

Here’s how net metering works:

1. Your solar system uses sunlight to generate electricity.
2. Your home uses the solar electricity first and if you need any more, it’ll be supplied from the grid.
3. Your net meter measures your excess solar generation and household consumption.
4. Any excess solar electricity is sent to the grid and a feed-in tariff is applied to this amount.

The benefits of net metering
Generally, if your feed-in tariff is lower than the price you pay for electricity, you’re likely to be better off with net metering. This is because under net metering, you’re using your own solar energy – so you won’t need to pay for it. That means you’ll only pay for the extra energy you need to take from the grid, which may reduce your overall electricity bill.

Making the switch to net metering with a remotely read digital meter
We’re upgrading the metering systems for our NSW Solar Bonus Scheme customers and to do the changeover, we need to install a remotely read digital meter at your property.

We’ll provide the digital meter and do the installation free of charge. If our technicians come across anything that stops them from accessing the meter or completing this work, we’ll be in touch to discuss further. There’ll be some cases where we can’t complete the changeover, either because we can’t access your meter or because additional work is required, and this would be at your cost.

Your feed-in tariff
To find out about your current feed-in tariff, jump on to originenergy.com.au/SolarFITNSW

NB: The images above are illustrative only. Some gross meters have only one meter, and with net metering, some sites may require a second meter depending on their configuration.
What you can expect

Installing a metering system that’s also capable of net metering is one of the ways to generate the best value from your solar system.

We’ll also let you know about our new energy plans and solar system upgrade options. We’re rolling these out as market offers for you to choose from once your digital meter is installed.

Maximising the value of your solar system will depend on several things including your individual energy use, the size of your solar system, the existing metering arrangements at your property and your distribution area.

You’ll find more information in our customer FAQs at originenergy.com.au/nswsolarbonusscheme