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EnviroGroup is proud to receive the Power Partners Gold Dealer Award for 2009.

This award is for the installation of up to 100kW of BP Solar modules during the 2009 year.

EnviroGroup would like to thank Power Partners and BP Solar for their support.

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Solar Credits Receive Further Cuts - larger systems better placed to ride the wave

The Federal Government recently announced that from July 1st, the solar credits multiplier for systems up to 1.5kW is being reduced.

This change affects the price of an entry-level 1.5kW system greatly, but for the larger systems that EnviroShop specialises in the change in cost is less marked.

The rebate for installing solar panels is based on the amount of greenhouse gases saved by the system over its lifetime. For each megawatt-hour of energy that will be produced by the system, a credit (called a Small-scale Technology Certificate, or STC) is created that has a value of between \$20 and \$40. To get more people installing solar panels, the Federal Government brought in a multiplier so that for every STC created for a system up to 1.5kW in size, 4 more were created. The program has been so successful it now needs to be wound back, so from July 1st instead of getting 5 STCs for the price of 1 for the first 1.5kW of your solar power system, you'll get 3 for the price of 1.

Ignoring the multiplier, in Victoria for every kilowatt (kW) on your roof, 17.6 STC's are created. This means that the amount of rebate you get back increases at the same rate as the size of the system you install. A 2kW system gets 2 x 17.6 STCs, a 3kW system 3x 17.6 STCs and so on. The cost of purchasing a system however doesn't increase at the same rate as the size. The larger the system is, the cheaper it will be per kilowatt. Buying anything in bulk tends to decrease the cost per unit, and solar is no exception.

A 3kW system doesn't cost less than two 1.5kW systems - but a 3kW system creates the same amount of rebates as two 1.5kW systems. The larger the system is, the larger the percentage of the total cost reduced by rebates will be.

Going for a larger system makes sense. The bulk of the money saved/earned by a solar power system is not from rebates, but from the electricity it produces. A larger system produces much more electricity, making you much more money.

The way the multiplier has worked in the past has meant that people didn't look past a 1.5kW system at anything larger. We chose to specialise in the larger, premium systems that have so far been less popular because we think they are better value - and now with the reduction in rebates, a larger system makes even more sense.

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EnviroGroup is committed to supplying members of the community with the tools to live and work in a more environmentally sustainable way. Our staff have come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have many years of relevant experience in the area of living sustainably.

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