

actsmart[®] battery storage fact sheet

The ACT is leading the world on renewable energy. We're making energy smarter through battery storage, 'the next big thing' in the supply of renewable energy. One of the largest roll outs of household batteries in the world has begun right here as the ACT Government provides \$25 million in funding through its 'Next Generation Energy Storage Program'. The Program will provide batteries to over 5000 homes and businesses by 2020.

What is battery storage?

It is new technology combining battery storage with your rooftop solar system. Your household battery is charged with solar energy from your rooftop. You can use this energy when you need to, even when the sun isn't shining.

What are the benefits of battery storage?

You can reduce your energy bills by using your battery at peak times (when it's most expensive to buy from the grid). You have total control over when you use your stored energy. An added bonus of some setups is that they can provide backup power during an outage.

As well as benefiting individual households, battery storage benefits the ACT's energy grid and saves the Territory money by reducing peak demand on our energy network. It also helps us avoid the need for costly network upgrades that are causing energy bills to increase in other parts of Australia's National Electricity Market. The ACT estimates saving up to \$220 million through the government-supported battery storage roll out.

What is the Next Generation Energy Storage Grants Program?

This ACT Government Program provides subsidised battery storage to Canberra homes. Eight battery storage providers have been selected to install the batteries through a competitive process.

If you're interested in installing solar battery storage in your home, first consider the smart questions provided in this fact sheet or visit www.actsmart.act.gov.au for more helpful tips.



Program battery storage providers*

ActewAGL Retail; Energy Matters; EPC Solar; Evergen; ITP Renewables; Origin Energy; Power Saving Centre; and SolarHub.

Smart questions you should ask

Are you considering installing battery storage? If so, get ready by asking the company you buy your battery from, and the electrician who installs it, these smart questions.

How can I maximise benefits from my battery storage?

Your battery provider should advise you on the best set up for your household (based on real energy consumption data), and estimate how much you'll save on your energy bills.

If electricity back up is important to you, make sure you check with your installer if your system can provide this.

How do I ensure my battery storage system is safe?

Battery storage, like all electrical installations, needs to be installed carefully to avoid the risk of fire and shock. You must have your battery storage installed by a licensed electrician who has proper training and accreditation. Ask about this and how the electrician will make your battery storage safe.

Some buildings may require building approval so if you need building code advice, talk to a licensed building certifier.

A list of licensed builders and building certifiers can be found at www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/hiring_licensing/list

Do weather conditions impact the battery?

Extreme heat or cold can have a negative impact on the performance and lifespan of some batteries. While battery manufacturers consider this in design, it's up to you to read the manufacturer's specifications to ensure the product you select will suit Canberra conditions. Ask your battery provider questions about the impact of weather.

Where should I store my battery?

There's lots to consider before finalising a location so talk to your electrical installer about risks and how to address them. For example, if your battery is installed in a high traffic area, such as beside a driveway, you'll need to protect it against knocks, especially from motor vehicles.

How long will my battery last?

Many factors influence how long a battery will last, including frequency of charging and discharging, ambient temperature and humidity. Talk to your battery provider about this. Also check the warranty for details on how long your battery should last and under what conditions. Your return policy might have details also.

What happens to the battery at its end of life?

Large batteries contain potentially hazardous materials that need to be disposed of properly and/or valuable materials that can be reused. When you buy your battery, ask if you will have to pay to dispose of your battery at the end of its life. Also ask if the company you buy from has a collection and recycling program.

*Disclaimer

While the ACT Government has selected these companies to participate in the Program, the ACT Government is not endorsing the companies or their products. Anyone considering battery storage should exercise their own judgement to evaluate the options and determine which product and company that is right for their individual circumstances.

For more questions and information on how to get ready for battery storage, visit www.actsmart.act.gov.au



For more ideas, tips and information
visit actsmart.act.gov.au call 13 22 81
email actsmart@act.gov.au