



ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION : Promoting energy saving & conservation to households



ATA Feed-in Tariff Newsletter #4

This bulletin is the fourth regular update on what is happening with feed-in tariffs across the country and internationally.

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ACT feed-in tariff legislation back before Parliament

ACT Labor MP Mick Gentleman has tabled his Private Members' feed-in tariff legislation in parliament today. This follows an extensive consultation period and a minor revision of the Bill, with minor revisions now guaranteeing the feed-in tariff for 20 years.

The feed-in tariff rate will initially be set at 3.88 times the retail rate, with the ability for adjustments on that in the future. However there is still some uncertainty about the metering arrangement and whether the tariff will apply to gross production from the system or the excess exported after in-home consumption (as is the case in South Australia). It is understood that the intention is to pay the feed-in tariff on the gross production from a PV system.

Click [here](#) to read the draft Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Bill 2008

Or visit Mick Gentleman's [website](#) for more information

Queensland introduces the *Solar Bonus Scheme*

Queensland has followed hot on the heels of South Australia to introduce Australia's second, albeit somewhat disappointing, feed-in tariff scheme. After a promising start in which it looked like we would be getting a scheme based on gross generation metering – as in Germany and almost everywhere else in the world – it looks like the Queensland Government has fallen into the trap of delivering an 'import/export' model identical to South Australia.

Upon announcing the scheme in Parliament, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said year "the Solar Bonus Scheme will pay households and businesses 44c for every kilowatt hour generated from solar power systems at work and at home and then fed into the grid". However, since then the Department of Mines and Energy is indicating that the feed-in tariff would be paid on the *excess* electricity generated and fed into the grid, after in-home consumption. This is a very different scheme.

Problems are:

- Import/export metering significantly discriminates against both owners of smaller grid-connected systems and those who are more likely to consume electricity during the day, such as senior citizens or stay-at-home parents

- In cases such as these, where instantaneous system production rarely exceeds household consumption, system owners rarely exporting electricity to the grid would gain very little financial return on their investment
- Average households are likely to be exporting less than 30% of their electricity to the grid (after in-home consumption), so payback times will still exceed 25 years – longer than the planned length of the scheme
- Further, any return on investment is hugely uncertain as it depends on both generation of the system and in-home habits, which change over time
- Uncertainty = reduced uptake; therefore the effectiveness of the whole scheme is called into question

For more on the Queensland scheme, click [here](#)

More US States Consider Feed-in Tariffs

The groundswell for feed-in tariffs in the USA continues to grow, with Michigan the latest State to get on board. Michigan State Representative Kathleen Law has proposed feed-in tariff legislation based on the German model, and has developed a website to tell the world.

This follows feed-in laws introduced in Minnesota, Rhode Island, Washington, New Mexico, Wisconsin and California.

Visit www.feedintariff.us/index for more.

UK feed-in tariff legislation

There has been a proposed amendment to the UK Energy Bill UK which will require future governments to introduce feed-in tariffs. If passed, the legislation will require the Secretary of State to introduce a feed-in tariff in the UK within 12 months.

To read the proposed legislation, click [here](#)

World Future Council publication on feed-in tariffs

The World Future Council has published an excellent short guide to feed-in tariffs, along with their other detailed work in this area.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of this report, or visit the WFC [website](#) for more detail

PBS online solar documentary

The independent USA public broadcaster PBS has provided an hour-long on-line programme on solar power and the future of energy. One of the six chapters (which can be viewed separately) provides an excellent outline of the German experience.

To watch the programme, click [here](#)

Feed-in tariff news channel

The Feed-In Tariff Channel has been launched for broadcasting interviews and information on feed-in tariffs. There are two channels to choose from, include short documentaries, interviews and other background information relevant to feed-in tariffs. There are some great interviews with US politicians responsible for driving feed-in tariffs there as well as an excellent short doco by the World Future Council.

Check it out [here](#)
