

CONGRATULATIONS – THE SOLAR RETAILER YOU’RE DEALING WITH HAS MADE A STRONG COMMITMENT TO GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES AND IMPROVING STANDARDS IN THE SOLAR INDUSTRY.

The Clean Energy Council Solar PV Retailer Code of Conduct is a way for solar businesses to show their commitment to responsible sales and marketing activities and solar industry best practice.

The code of conduct is a voluntary scheme for retail businesses selling solar PV systems to households and businesses. It aims to lift the bar higher than the minimum requirements set by government and regulations and bring about a better standard of service within the solar industry.

The Clean Energy Council manages the code of conduct and ensures that signatories comply with its strict requirements all times.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The company you’re dealing with has signed on to the Clean Energy Council Solar PV Retailer Code of Conduct. That means you will receive the following - and more:

- ✓ a monthly performance estimate for your system
- ✓ a standard minimum warranty period of five years on your whole PV system
- ✓ detailed information on the process between system installation and network connection
- ✓ all relevant documentation once your PV system is installed

LOOK FOR A CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL APPROVED RETAILER

A Clean Energy Council Approved Retailer is a company that has signed on to the code of conduct and agreed to follow its requirements at all times.

To see a list of current Approved Retailers, visit approvedsolarretailer.com.au

HIGH STANDARDS

When you buy solar from a Clean Energy Council Approved Retailer, you can be assured that you are buying a quality product from a company that follows all relevant consumer protection laws and is prepared to back the operation of your solar PV system for at least five years. The code also has strict requirements that companies must follow in pre- and post-sale activities, documentation and general business practices.

WHY THE CODE?

The Clean Energy Council established the Solar PV Retailer Code of Conduct in 2013 on behalf of the solar industry to improve customer service and industry standards. The Clean Energy Council already upholds industry standards for solar installations through its installer accreditation program.

The establishment of the Solar PV Retailer Code of Conduct means that the solar retail sector will also be monitored, and in particular companies that engage in misleading or poor sales and marketing practices.



CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL APPROVED SOLAR RETAILERS WILL:

PRE-SALE

- ensure that sales representatives act ethically at all times
- not engage in any dishonest or misleading advertising and sales tactics
- provide you with the necessary information in writing to enable full education about your purchase prior to entering into a contract

POST-SALE

- uphold your legal rights relating to cooling-off periods and refunds and give you the opportunity to cancel a contract and obtain a full refund where changes are made after contract that are not approved in writing
- provide a standard minimum warranty period of five years, on the operation and performance of the whole PV system including workmanship and products, and address any problems arising during this period
- fully inform you of the process between system installation and network connection or will facilitate this process on your behalf

DOCUMENTATION AND GENERAL BUSINESS

- ensure that you are provided with the required documentation after the PV system is installed
- adhere to all existing legislation and regulations, and maintain effective internal cancellation procedures and complaint handling processes
- be fully accountable for the actions of any subcontracted parties, including CEC-accredited installers/designers
- have a fair and transparent complaints process, and get back to you within 21 days of you making a complaint

DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

Should you need to make a complaint against a company identifying itself as a Clean Energy Council Approved Retailer, you should first contact the company directly.

If you are not satisfied with the response from the Approved Retailer, you can also contact your relevant consumer protection organisation. You can also register your complaint with the Clean Energy Council, which will investigate breaches of the code. This may result in the retailer having its approval revoked.

For more information on dealing with complaints please visit approvedsolarretailer.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

- For further information or to view a copy of the code of conduct, visit approvedsolarretailer.com.au
- For any questions on the code of conduct, contact:
Clean Energy Council – Code of Conduct
Level 15, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
email codeofconduct@cleanenergycouncil.org.au
- To download the Clean Energy Council's Consumer Guide to Installing Solar Panels, visit solaraccreditation.com.au
- For information on consumer rights and warranties, visit acc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-rights-guarantees
- To contact your relevant consumer affairs organisation, visit solaraccreditation.com.au/consumers/complaints

WHAT IS THE CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL?

The Clean Energy Council is the peak body for Australia's clean energy industry, working with more than 550 solar, wind, energy efficiency, energy storage, bioenergy, hydro, cogeneration, geothermal and marine energy businesses. We are committed to accelerating the transformation of Australia's energy system into one that is smarter, cleaner and more consumer-focused.

For more information, visit cleanenergycouncil.org.au