

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance packages exist to help people move into solar or other sustainable energy solutions. Here are two:

1] The **Kiwibank Sustainable Energy Loan** helps people move into solar or other sustainable energy solutions. It is available for solar hot water, solar photovoltaic, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal in domestic dwellings. If you fund a sustainable energy system alongside a home loan, Kiwibank will contribute a maximum of \$2000 over four years to the loan (\$800 at the end of year one and \$400 at the end of years two, three and four). Systems must be professionally end to end supplied and installed by a member of SEANZ or SANZ.

Contact – Talk to your SEANZ or SANZ registered provider. See Kiwibank.co.nz (search term “Sustainable Energy Loan”) for details.

2] **Prometheus**, NZ's leading social and environmental finance organisation, offers “Eco-purchase” loans for home owners for insulation, wood burning stoves, wetbacks, solar installations and double glazing. The interest rate for this loan is fixed and is higher than at Kiwibank. However, because it is not tacked onto an existing mortgage it may work better for you, depending on the size of your mortgage. Please note, financing is not limited to solar and can be used with any supplier.

Contact – contact Angela at Prometheus on 0800 77 66 48 or visit www.prometheus.co.nz

BRCT BRCT

Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust

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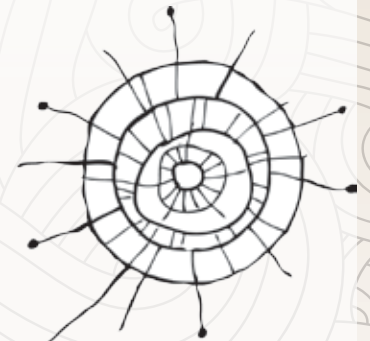
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Solar Project



Are you
interested
in harnessing
the power of the sun?

This leaflet can help...

Background

In 2012 BRCT received strong interest in solar energy and Chris Le Breton, one of BRCT's volunteers, began work to facilitate the uptake of solar in Blueskin.

On the 4th of Feb 2013, a public meeting on solar was held. The majority of those present liked the idea of arranging our own community purchase of a container of PV panels from China and fixing the solar equipment in local teams.

It makes sense to harness the power of the sun. Below are some different options.

Independent Blueskin Arrangements

If BRCT takes on an organizing role for Community purchase of a container of PV panels, there are significant insurance and compliance costs that would add to the work and cost of a community purchase. As a result, the best way for such potentially low cost arrangements is through independent private arrangements, with no BRCT participation.

Already a number of solar installations are taking place as a result of private arrangements between local supplier Hagen Brueggeman and a number of households. BRCT as a legal body is not involved.

- **How it works:** Hagen provides the PV panels and currently gives guidance on installation.
- **Approximate cost:** Varies
- **Contact:** Hagen Brueggeman 03 4821218

Offer

Solarcity is NZ's biggest solar power provider and has prepared a special offer for Blueskin residents for both solar electricity (PV) and solar hot water (thermal). They are offering to train community members, plumbers and electricians to become 'certified' to install systems, they will ensure all work is to code and that savings promised are delivered.

As a bonus, for every \$1000 spent with Solarcity, 25watts of solar power will be donated to public buildings in Blueskin, like schools and the library.

- **How it works:** An 'off the shelf' purchase that has to be installed by a 'certified' installer. This could be a company appointed installer, a local 'certified' installer, or you could get yourself 'certified' by doing Solarcity's training course (contact: office@brct.org.nz if you are interested).
- **Approximate cost:**
3kw PV (electricity) = \$7500 + GST + install
Thermal (hot water) = \$3500 + GST + install
- **Contact:** email Solarcity with the identifier "BS1" to quote@solarcity.co.nz

Low Tech Solar Hot Water

BRCT has some simple instructions for very low cost solar thermal systems. Check it out on our website: www.brct.org.nz

- **How it works:** DIY and this may be an opportunity for someone to set up a micro-business.
- **Approximate cost:** \$1000 + installation
- **Contact:** BRCT on 03 482 2048 or solar@blueskinpower.co.nz

Other Solar Providers

There are many other solar providers in the greater Dunedin area. We recommend you shop around and consider such things as: the length of time the business has been operating, the warranties the business can provide, testimonials, solar systems used, and whether they are part of a national body such as the Sustainable Electricity Association New Zealand.

- **How it works:** An 'off the shelf' purchase, they provide and install.
- **Approximate cost:** Varies greatly
- **Contact:** The provider you choose.

Quick Facts

A moderately sized (2-3kw) PV system costing less than \$10,000 (2012) can provide a large part of a home's electricity requirements. This assumes you have energy-efficient lights and appliances; wood, gas, passive solar design or other nonelectric space heating; solar and/or wetback water heating; and gas or induction cooking.

There are no Government or council subsidies or buy back policies for PV in New Zealand. If you generate more electricity than you are using, most retailers will buy it back from you but at a lower rate than they will sell you electricity.

PV systems need unshaded, north facing sun exposure for most of the day. Most places in NZ have at least 2000 sun hours per year, Southland still gets 1700 hours. This is high compared to London, (1500). (For more info, see Factsheet 10: PV Solar Electricity, www.ecodesignadvisor.org.nz/advice-and-info).