



Energy Smart Homes Grant Program Application Guidelines

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Contents

Energy Smart Homes Grant	1
Program Application Guidelines	1
What is the Energy Smart Home Grant Program?	3
Grant Pool:.....	3
Key Dates	4
Application details	4
Who can apply?	4
What can be funded?	4
Solar Savers and City of Whittlesea.....	5
Terms and conditions	5
What cannot be funded?	6
Applications and acquittals	6
Application Process	7
Support for applicants	7
Program Benefits	8

Cover image:

Residential home with solar panels installed.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurrundjeri Willum clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

What is the Energy Smart Home Grant Program?

The Energy Smart Home Grant Program aims to support households in the City of Whittlesea to make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes.

The grant enables energy efficiency upgrades and electrification of homes—upgrading the building fabric and replacing gas-powered systems with electric alternatives to improve thermal comfort and reduce bills while supporting the transition to clean, renewable energy.

This grant provides financial assistance to households seeking these upgrades.

The program is aligned with actions in the City of Whittlesea's **Sustainable Environment Strategy (SES)** and **Climate Change Plan**.

Grant Pool:

- **Total Funding Available:** \$45,000
- **Grant Amount:** 80% of upgrade costs, up to a maximum of **\$1,500** per household

Key Dates

August 2025	Applications open
From September 2025	Successful applicants notified (within 6 weeks of application)
September 2025 – May 2026	Upgrades completed
Within 6 months of upgrade completion	Applicants must submit part one of the acquittal within 6 months of the upgrade being completed. Part two of the acquittal will be due 12 months after the completion of the upgrade.

Application details

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the Home Efficiency Grant, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Combined household income less than **\$130,000 per annum** (based on the most recent Tax Office Notice of Assessment)
- The home must be valued at **less than \$800,000 on your most recent rates notice**.
- The applicant must live in the **City of Whittlesea**.
- Eligible applicants include **owner-occupiers** and **renters** with written permission from their landlord.
- The grant can only be used for upgrades on the **primary residence** (not investment properties or secondary dwellings).
- Work must be carried out by **Solar Savers** vetted providers, ensuring high-quality and trusted service for all upgrades.
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the program.

Applicants not eligible:

- Councillors for City of Whittlesea
- Households earning over \$130,000
- Applicants successful in current Draught Stoppers Program

What can be funded?

Council provides funding for a range of environmental projects including:

Funded Item
Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems

Home batteries
Hot water heat pumps
Induction cooktops
Insulation upgrades
Draught-proofing
Split system heating and cooling
Residential scorecard assessments
EV chargers

Solar Savers and City of Whittlesea

Solar Savers is a local government initiative helping households and businesses to upgrade housing to ensure energy efficiency and electrification. Initially with a focus on solar, since 2018, Solar Savers has supported the installation of over 550 solar PV systems in Victoria.

By engaging Solar Savers, City of Whittlesea residents will have access to vetted suppliers, free advice & no obligation quote.

Solar Savers has recently expanded the products offered through the program.

After the Home Energy Grant pool is expended, residents will still be able to access the Solar Savers trusted suppliers to make home energy upgrades easy.

Terms and conditions

The grant amount will not be paid to the resident but will be paid directly to the supplier (through Solar Savers) with the grant amount to be taken off the invoice for the household's upgrade, therefore lowering the upfront cost of the upgrade.

To access the grant the supplier will provide relevant compliance certificate for all electrical and plumbing work as well as tax invoices for the completed work.

Suppliers will have to prove they have finalised all Statutory legal and insurance obligations for all funded upgrade works

Council may use deidentified information from your application for report writing/case studies.

All upgrades undertaken remains property of the Applicants, Council does not take any ownership nor liability of the funded upgrades.

What cannot be funded?

- Incomplete applications
- Cosmetic upgrades or non-energy related improvements
- Gas powered heating/cooling systems
- Routine repairs or maintenance
- Previous upgrades
- Ongoing costs

Applications and acquittals

EOIs will happen through the City of Whittlesea webpage (insert link) with selected households then detailing their upgrade requirements in the Solar Savers portal. Acquittals through City of Whittlesea.

Information needed for your EOI:

- Proof of income, through a Tax Office statement
- Proof of property price through rates

Information needed for your Solar Savers form:

- Some general information about your household.
- A current electricity bill
- A current gas bill (if applicable)

Information needed for your acquittal:

- A current electricity bill, within 6 months of the upgrade and again one year after upgrade has occurred
- Completed short questionnaire on your experience.

To access the grant funding the supplier of the upgrade will be required to provide:

- Relevant compliance certificates for all electrical and plumbing work
- A tax invoice for completed work
- Images of completed work
- Proof of compliance with any relevant statutory and insurance obligations

Application Process

Expression of Interest:

Applicants will submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) through the City of Whittlesea website.

- **Note:** Applications will be open for four weeks and applicants will be selected through a random draw.

Eligibility Assessment:

The City of Whittlesea will assess each application to determine eligibility and notify successful applicants.

Upgrade Completion:

Once approved, applicants will fill out EOI on Solar Savers portal and receive quotes from vetted Solar Savers suppliers. Once a quote is approved by applicant, the chosen vetted provider proceeds with the energy efficiency upgrade.

The upgrades may include the installation of energy-efficient appliances, solar panels, electric heating or cooling systems, or other improvements that reduce energy consumption.

Grant Payment:

The grant amount of 80% of the full upgrade price up to \$1,500 will be taken off the invoice price.

After completion of the upgrades, applicants must complete a short acquittal (detailed above) to Smarty Grants. Failure to acquit the grant may result in ineligibility for future grants.

Solar Savers will issue the grant amount directly to the supplier, so the resident is not burdened with the up-front cost.

Support for applicants

We understand that applying for grants can sometimes be challenging, so we offer several support services to ensure all residents have equal access to this opportunity.

For any questions or assistance, please contact the Sustainable Environment team at sustainability.planning@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or call at 9217 2170

Hearing or Speech Impaired:

Applicants who are hearing or speech impaired can access support through the **National Relay Service**.

Translation Services:

If you require a translator, please let us know and we will assist in arranging services to ensure you can apply.

Additional Support:

If you have any other needs or concerns about the application process, please get in touch, and we will work with you to ensure that your application is processed smoothly.

Program Benefits

Financial Support for Energy-Efficient Upgrades:

By offering financial assistance for energy-saving upgrades, the grant will help reduce household energy costs and make homes more comfortable.

Support for Electrification:

As part of the move toward a sustainable future, this program encourages **electrification**—replacing gas with electric-powered systems such as heat pumps and induction cooktops, leading to lower emissions and greater energy efficiency.

Long-Term Environmental Impact:

By supporting the transition to cleaner, renewable energy sources, the Energy Smart Homes Grant helps households contribute to City of Whittlesea's climate goals and environmental sustainability efforts.

For more information or if you need help with the application process, please feel free to contact us at sustainability.planning@whittlesea.vic.gov.au