



The 2025 Smart Home Guide to Solar, Batteries & Automation



Electrify Canberra Living



Introduction: Why This Guide Matters

Australia is rapidly transitioning to smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable energy solutions. From rooftop solar panels and battery storage to electric vehicle (EV) chargers and home automation systems, today's smart homes are designed to be self-sufficient, efficient, and intelligent. Whether your goal is to drastically reduce energy bills, increase property value, or contribute to a renewable future, this guide will empower you with clear, actionable knowledge tailored to the Canberra market.

At **Canberra Smart Homes**, we specialize in designing, installing, and maintaining integrated smart energy ecosystems that fit your lifestyle and home perfectly. This guide is your comprehensive handbook for understanding, choosing, and managing the future of residential energy.

Get instant insights in 2 seconds on system size, battery recommendations, and rebate savings tailored for your home:

 **Try it now our Saving calculator:**

<https://canberrasmarthomes.com.au/solar-calculator/>

A screenshot of the Canberra Smart Homes solar calculator interface. It features a light grey background with several input fields. The first field is labeled "Postcode:" and contains the value "2914". The second field is labeled "Your Monthly Electricity Bill (\$):" and contains "500". The third field is labeled "% Usage During Day (when solar is active):" and contains "60". The fourth field is labeled "% Usage at Night:" and contains "40". Below these fields is a green button with white text that says "Get your Smart Recommendation in 2 seconds". At the bottom of the form, there is a red location pin icon followed by the text "Results for postcode 2914 (Zone 2):".



End-to-End Smart Energy Installation Process

We guide you through from consultation to installation and ongoing support:

1. Free consultation and energy review (Book free appointment <https://calendly.com/canberrasmarthomes/30min>)
2. Site inspection and system design
3. Proposal and fixed pricing
4. Contract signing
5. Order Material and deliver to your doorstep
6. Grid approvals and rebate paperwork
7. Arrange Professional installation by local licensed CEC installers
8. System setup, app configuration, and training
9. Ongoing support and maintenance options



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1. 🏠 What Is a Smart Home?

A smart home is more than just having automated lighting or security cameras—it's an interconnected system that manages power, heating, cooling, water, and security efficiently. The core of a *true* smart home is the seamless integration of your solar panels, battery storage, EV charging, and energy tariff management into one intelligent ecosystem, often controllable via smartphone or voice assistants like Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa.





Key Benefits:

- **Reduce electricity bills:** Shift your power consumption to times when solar is producing or when tariffs are low.
 - **Improve comfort:** Automatically adjust heating, cooling, and lighting based on your routine and preferences.
 - **Increase home value:** Energy-efficient and automated homes are increasingly attractive on the market.
 - **Enhance resilience:** Battery backup keeps your home running during blackouts.
 - **Earn money:** Participate in Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) or wholesale electricity trading.
 - **Sustainability:** Lower your carbon footprint with renewable energy use and smart consumption.
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2. 💰 Price Range Guide & Cost Factors (2025 Estimates)

This section gives you a clear understanding of what you'll pay for different smart energy products — and why prices vary. Prices depend on factors like brand, capacity, warranty, complexity, and site conditions.

🌞 Solar Panels

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
(6.6kW system: ~\$2800 to \$4000 installed)
- Factors That Affect Cost:
 - Brand and efficiency (e.g., REC, SunPower Maxeon = premium)
 - Warranty length (25–40 years)
 - Black vs. silver frames (aesthetic preference)
 - Installation type (tile roof, tin roof, tilt frames)

- System size (bigger systems may cost less per watt)



SUNPOWER | MAXEON 6

⚙️ Inverters

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
 - On-Grid: \$900 – \$2,200
 - Hybrid: \$1,800 – \$3,800
 - (Depends on single vs. 3-phase and capacity)*
- Factors That Affect Cost:
 - Type (On-grid cheaper, Hybrid more expensive)

- Brand (Enphase, Fronius & SolarEdge are premium)
- Size (3kW, 5kW, 10kW etc.)
- Single-phase vs. three-phase supply
- Extra smart features (EV charger-ready, backup output)
- Integration needs (e.g. with battery, hot water, VPPs)



🔋 Batteries

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
From \$3,000 to \$18,000+
(Based on usable capacity 5–50kWh, brand, and install complexity)
- Factors That Affect Cost:

- Battery size (more kWh = higher cost but also more rebate)
- Brand (Tesla and SolarEdge = premium)
- Stackable/modular (BYD, Sungrow offer flexibility)
- Backup capability (critical load support = extra gear)
- Monitoring & VPP-ready features
- Wall-mount vs. floor-mount installations



EV Chargers

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
From \$900 to \$2,200
- Factors That Affect Cost:
 - Brand (Zappi = smart solar sync, Tesla = affordable for Teslas)
 - Power level (7kW single-phase vs. 22kW three-phase)
 - Solar integration features (Zappi, Fronius Wattpilot, etc.)

- Cable length & installation distance from switchboard
 - Switchboard upgrades or circuit capacity issues
-

Hot Water Systems

- Heat Pumps (e.g., Reclaim, Stiebel, iStore):
\$3,500 – \$5,500 (fully installed, after STC rebate)
 - Smart Electric Tanks (e.g., Rheem):
\$1,500 – \$2,800 (with diverter + timer setup)
 - Factors That Affect Cost:
 - System size (160L, 250L, 315L, etc.)
 - Brand and warranty (Reclaim has long life stainless tanks)
 - Smart controls and solar diversion compatibility
 - Installation location (external access, plumbing upgrades)
-

Ventilation Systems (ERV/HRV)

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
\$3,500 – \$8,500
 - Factors That Affect Cost:
 - House size (number of ducts and zones)
 - Brand and filtration quality (HEPA, PM2.5 filters)
 - Integration with automation or HVAC systems
 - Roof space availability and ductwork needs
-

Automation Systems

- Typical Price Range (Installed):
From \$1,500 (starter kit) to \$10,000+ (whole home)
- Factors That Affect Cost:



- How many devices/zones (lights, blinds, sensors, AC, etc.)
 - Wired (KNX/C-Bus) vs. wireless (Zigbee/Wi-Fi)
 - Integration depth (solar, water, EV, scenes, security)
 - App/hub ecosystem (Home Assistant, Apple, Google, etc.)
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⚡ Full Smart Energy Package (Estimate Examples)

Package Type	Typical Installed Price Range
Solar Only	\$2,800 – \$12,000
Solar + Battery	\$6,000 – \$20,000
Full Smart Home Integration	\$15,000 – \$25,000+

3. 🌞 How Solar Power Works

Solar panels convert sunlight directly into direct current (DC) electricity using photovoltaic (PV) cells. This DC electricity is then converted into alternating current (AC) by an inverter, which powers your home appliances. Surplus electricity not used immediately can be stored in batteries or fed back into the grid for credits through feed-in tariffs.

Solar in Canberra:

- **Average peak sun hours:** 4.7 to 5.3 hours per day, ideal for solar production.
- **Ideal installation:** North-facing roof with 20°–30° tilt maximizes year-round energy harvest.
- **Performance:** Canberra's climate with clear skies for much of the year supports strong solar output.



4. Solar Panel Products & Comparison

Solar panels vary by power output, efficiency, durability, and price. Here are some top choices available through Canberra Smart Homes, including new additions to our offering:

- **Longi Hi-MO 5:** Uses mono PERC half-cut cells, offers around 21.2% efficiency, known for low degradation and good shading tolerance. Comes with a 25-year product and performance warranty.
- **Jinko Tiger Neo:** Features N-type cells with about 21.4% efficiency, excels in low-light conditions, and has a 25-year warranty.



- **Trina Vertex S+:** Mono PERC cells with roughly 21.1% efficiency, attractive black design, and a 25-year warranty.
- **SunPower Maxeon 6:** Premium panels with 22.8%+ efficiency, very low degradation rate, and an industry-leading **40-year warranty**.
- **REC Alpha Series:** Heterojunction cell technology with ~21.7% efficiency, good heat tolerance, and 25-year warranty.

Why Choose These Panels?

- **Efficiency:** Higher efficiency means more power from less roof space.
- **Durability:** Resistant to weather extremes and performance degradation over time.
- **Warranty:** Long performance and product warranties ensure peace of mind.
- **Aesthetics:** Options range from standard blue panels to sleek black designs that suit different home styles.

5. ⚙️ Solar Inverters: Hybrid, Micro, & On-Grid

The inverter is the **brain** of your solar system, converting DC to AC and manage power flow.

- **Fronius Primo GEN24:** Hybrid inverter supporting solar and battery, smart load management, Wi-Fi monitoring, and app-based control.
- **Sungrow SH5K-DT:** Compact hybrid inverter with high efficiency and real-time monitoring.
- **Enphase IQ7+ Microinverter:** Provides panel-level optimization and modular expansion, compatible with Enphase's battery storage and app.
- **SolarEdge HD-Wave:** Uses power optimizers for module-level safety and maximized energy harvest, with full app monitoring.
- **GoodWe DNS Series:** Affordable, reliable on-grid inverters with basic monitoring but no battery compatibility



Inverter Types Explained:

- **Hybrid Inverters:** Combine solar and battery control for optimal energy flow, suitable for future-proofing your system.
- **On-Grid Inverters:** Connect directly to the grid without battery integration; ideal if you don't want storage.
- **Microinverters:** Installed on each solar panel, maximizing individual panel performance and flexibility; ideal for shaded or complex roofs.

Smart Features:

- Real-time monitoring via mobile apps
- Load management to reduce peak grid consumption
- Integration with home automation and EV chargers
- Firmware updates for continuous improvements

6. 🏠 Battery Storage Systems

Batteries allow you to store excess solar energy for use during night or outages, improve self-consumption, and participate in VPP programs to earn credits.

- **Tesla Powerwall 3:** Lithium-ion NMC chemistry, 13.5 kWh usable capacity, supports backup power and VPP participation. Warranty covers 10 years with 70% capacity retention.
- **Sungrow SBR Series:** Lithium-ion LFP batteries with 3 kWh – 30kWh usable capacity, VPP compatible, 10-year warranty.
- **BYD Battery-Box HV:** Modular Lithium-ion LFP batteries starting from 3kWh- 30kWh, supports backup power and VPPs, 10-year warranty.
- **Sigenergy Home Battery:** Around 3kWh- 30kWh capacity, lithium-ion LFP chemistry, VPP compatible with 10-year warranty.



Why Add Battery Storage?

- **Maximize self-consumption:** Use your solar power when you want it.
- **Backup power:** Keep your home running during blackouts.
- **Participate in Virtual Power Plants:** Earn by sharing power with the grid during peak times.
- **Load shifting:** Use stored energy during expensive peak tariff periods.

Battery Technology Trends:

- Lithium-ion batteries dominate for their energy density and lifespan.
- Modular systems allow easy capacity upgrades.
- Intelligent battery management systems protect health and optimize efficiency.

7. 🚗 EV Chargers: Charging at Home

Charging your EV at home with solar and battery integration can drastically reduce running costs.

- **Zappi V2:** Offers 7 to 22 kW output with smart solar charging and dynamic load balancing; fully app controlled.
- **Tesla Wall Connector:** Up to 11 kW, designed for Tesla vehicles with solar sync features and app integration.
- **Fronius Wattpiilot:** Between 3.7 and 22 kW, supports integrated solar control and scheduled charging.

Features:

- Charge faster than regular plugs (up to 5 times faster).
- Smart solar sync automatically uses surplus solar power.
- Schedule charging to match off-peak electricity tariffs.
- Monitor and control charging sessions remotely.

8. 💡 Hot Water Heating Solutions

Heating water accounts for a large portion of household energy use. Smart hot water solutions integrate with solar and energy management systems for major savings.

- **Heat Pumps (e.g., Reclaim, Stiebel Eltron, iStore):** Use ambient air to efficiently heat water, often achieving a Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 270%–300% or higher. They are eligible for STC rebates and can be configured to operate during solar production times or off-peak tariff windows.



- **Solar Divert Systems:** Use devices like Catch Power or SolarEdge Smart Energy to divert excess solar electricity to an electric water heater (usually a standard resistive element tank). This maximizes solar self-consumption without needing a separate hot water system.
- **Smart Electric Hot Water (e.g., Rheem, Bosch):** These are resistive tanks that heat water using electricity, often paired with timers or controlled by home energy management systems to run during off-peak or high solar production times. Less efficient than heat pumps, but lower upfront cost.

Benefits of Smart Hot Water Systems:

- Use free solar energy to heat water during the day.
- Reduce reliance on gas or electric resistance heaters.
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Integration with home automation for remote monitoring and control.

9. 🏠 Home Automation & Control

Your smart home system lets you control lighting, climate, security, water, EV charging, and more—all from one app or voice assistant.



Integration Examples:

- **Lighting:** Philips Hue, Shelly, LIFX smart bulbs with color and dimming control.
- **Climate:** Smart thermostats and AC controls from Nest and Daikin.
- **Security:** Smart locks (Yale), cameras (Arlo), motion sensors (Aqara).
- **Water & EV:** Automated schedules based on solar availability or electricity prices.
- **Scenes & Modes:** Presets like “Away,” “Night,” or “Party” automate multiple systems simultaneously.

10. 🌬️ Ventilation Systems

Efficient ventilation improves air quality and energy efficiency.

System	Type	Key Benefit	Control
ERV System	Heat exchange	Filters incoming air, retains heating/cooling	Smart-integrated
HRV Fresh Vent+	Ducted	Allergy & asthma support	App + Sensor

11. 🚦 Export Limits & Grid Integration



Most homes connect to single-phase grids with export limits around 5 kW. Three-phase connections allow larger solar, battery, and EV systems with export limits up to 15 kW.

We assist with:

- Grid applications and approvals.
- Smart meter upgrades.
- 3-phase switchboard installation.

12. ⚡ Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)

VPPs aggregate many battery systems, enabling owners to earn by selling stored energy back to the grid during high demand.

Program	Battery Required	Payout Type	Notes
Tesla Energy Plan	Tesla Powerwall 2	\$ per kWh credits	100% renewable energy
Amber Electric	Any	Wholesale trading	Automated battery dispatch
Reposit Power	Most batteries	Bill credits	Focused on ACT market

13. 🏠 Utility Companies & Amber Wholesale

Retailer choice affects savings and smart energy participation.

Retailer	Solar FiT	VPP Compatible	Wholesale Access	Notes
ActewAGL	8–12 c/kWh	Limited	No	Canberra local provider
Origin Energy	10–14 c/kWh	Yes	No	Flexible plans
EnergyAustralia	7–12 c/kWh	Yes	No	EV-friendly plans
Nectr	8–13 c/kWh	Yes	No	Clean energy focus
Amber Electric	Wholesale rate	Yes	Yes	Dynamic pricing, best for batteries

14. The Canberra Smart Homes Process

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 9. Ongoing support and maintenance options
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15. Safety, Licensing & Compliance

We comply fully with Australian standards:

- CEC-accredited installers
 - AS/NZS 3000 wiring standards
 - AS 5033 solar PV safety codes
 - Battery and EV charger electrical isolation protocols
 - Full post-installation compliance certificates
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16. FAQs

Q1: Do I need a battery to install solar?



A: No, but batteries maximize savings and resilience.

Q2: How long does installation take?

A: Usually 1–3 days depending on system size and complexity.

Q3: Can I add batteries or EV chargers later?

A: Yes, systems can be upgraded or expanded anytime.

17. Glossary of Smart Energy Terms

- **PERC:** Passivated Emitter Rear Contact solar cells, improves efficiency.
- **LID:** Light Induced Degradation, a temporary efficiency drop after first exposure to sunlight.
- **Feed-in Tariff:** Payment you receive for exporting solar energy to the grid.
- **Hybrid Inverter:** Combines solar and battery management.
- **Microinverter:** Small inverter attached to each panel for optimized output.

19. Book Your Free Consultation Today

Let's tailor a smart energy solution perfect for your home, budget, and lifestyle.

Contact us:

 Phone 0422724434

 Email: SUPPORT@canberrasmarthomes.com.au

 Website: www.canberrasmarthomes.com.au



Thank You for Reading

We appreciate your time and interest in building a smarter, more sustainable home. If you have any questions or would like a tailored proposal, don't hesitate to reach out.

