

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Women



Thursday, 23 February 2023

SOLAR BOOST MAKES GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS GREENER

Government schools across the state will be supported to install solar panels to save millions of dollars in energy bills and cut emissions through an Andrews Labor Government program.

Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said dozens of schools are set to benefit from the latest round of the Greener Government School Buildings (GGSB) program – with \$4.6 million in funding available.

Some 232 schools are currently participating in the GGSB program. A total estimated installed capacity of 9,300 kilowatts across all schools involved in the GGSB program is expected to reduce up to 14,000 tonnes of emissions every year and save more than \$2.5 million on electricity bills for schools per year.

A solar power system is a strategic investment that can pay for itself over several years. This investment program removes the upfront costs of installing a system that may otherwise discourage schools from pursuing this option.

In round two of the GGSB, Bendigo Senior Secondary College received a 99.4kW solar power system, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 160 tonnes a year and saving more than \$50,000 on power bills.

Lara Primary School received a 38.5kW solar power system under the GGSB Round 1, reducing its emissions by more than 51 tonnes per year, and saving more than \$7,400 on power bills from electricity generated onsite.

The GGSB pilot program helped Mill Park Primary School reduce its emissions by more than 38 tonnes via a 24.4kW solar power system that also saved more than \$8,000 on power bills from electricity generated onsite.

This program will help Victoria meet its nation-leading renewable energy and emissions targets of 95 per cent renewable energy by 2035 and net zero by 2045.

Schools can find out more on the Greener Government School Buildings program at schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins

“Schools can use significant amounts of electricity each day to support students’ learning – and that’s why we’re investing in making our schools even more environmentally sustainable.”

“Installing solar power systems helps reduce power bills for our schools at a time when the cost of living is high, as well as benefiting the environment.”

“These grants benefit local schools and their communities as well as reducing carbon emissions right across the state.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Climate Action Lily D’Ambrosio

We’re helping schools to reduce their energy cost and lower emissions while teaching students a real-life lesson about the importance of climate action.”