Solar PV installations in the ACT: 200kW-1MW

Step 1: Get development approval (if necessary)

Development approval is not required for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems if:

- no part is within 1.5m of a side boundary or rear boundary of the block
- no part of a ground mounted panel is between the front boundary and the building line of the block
- no part of a protruding panel is higher than 300mm above the closest point of the roof
- no part of a protruding panel restricts solar access of another block.

Development Applications need to be lodged online using eDevelopment

Step 2: Get building approval

In the ACT you need Building Approval for solar installations on all Building Code of Australia class 2 to 9 buildings. To get building approval, you will need to:

- appoint a licensed building surveyor as your certifier
- complete and lodge the required forms and pay the relevant fees.

Step 3: Get a connection agreement

You or your proposed installer must receive approval from Evoenergy before you can start installing the solar system. To do this, you will need to complete a special connection request form.

Steps 4 &5: Meter change and hiring a licenced electrician

Your existing electricity meter will either need to be reconfigured or replaced with a new import/export meter before you can connect to the grid. Your solar installer will need to submit a completed 'Request for Service Form' to your electricity retailer and make an appointment for meter installation. You must use a licenced electrician to install the solar PV system. The work will not be considered complete until the electricity meter is installed. The meter cannot be installed until after the solar PV system is installed.

Step 6: Submit Certificate of Electrical safety (CES)

An electrician with an ACT unrestricted electrical licence must complete all wiring work in a grid-connected PV installation. A CES needs to be submitted within 14 days of completion, and must be inspected before it can be connected to the electricity network. The electrician needs to arrange an Access Canberra Electrical Inspector to inspect the installation.

Step 7: Apply for an operating Certificate

Medium and Larger scale (200kW to 30MW) electrical generation systems need to have an operating certificate.

Please note, the size of the system is determined by the export capability at the connection point. One block may have multiple connection points. Each connection point will need to comply with the follow requirements.

0 to 199KW:

- No operating certificate required.

200kW to 1MW:

- Contact the Utilities Technical Regulation (UTR) to discuss your proposal. You may be asked to supply evidence of this interaction.
- Prepare a basic maintenance schedule, inverter testing program, emergency plan and single line diagram.
- Submit an Operating Certificate Form to UTR for assessment.

1MW to 30MW:

- Contact UTR to discuss your proposal. You may be asked to supply evidence of this interaction.
- Prepare a Regulatory Plan.
- Submit an Operating Certificate Form to UTR for assessment.

Step 8: Get Evoenergy agreement

- Evoenergy will issue a connection agreement, inspect the system and permit energisation to the network.

Step 9: Ongoing maintenance and five-year testing regime

Like all electrical equipment, your solar system should be maintained regularly for performance, operation and safety reasons. You will receive a reminder from Evoenergy when you are due for testing. Your installer or any licensed electrician can complete this testing.