

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



Monday, 17 June 2024

NEW INDUSTRY TRAINING TO MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

The Allan Labor Government is bolstering training for the construction industry to design and build energy efficient 7-star rated and all-electric homes across the state ensuring Victoria's workforce has the right skills to build the homes of the future.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today launched the Renewable Homes Construction program which will provide free training on how to build, design or retrofit homes to make them more energy efficient.

The program will also train builders on the new National Construction Code 2022 (NCC) which came into effect on 1 May 2024 and has improved living standards - making homes more comfortable, accessible, and cheaper to heat and cool and helping Victorians save more than \$4,200 on their energy bills.

The Home Efficiency Construction Roadshows are being delivered by Solar Victoria in partnership with Master Builders Victoria and the Housing Industry Association at sites across Melbourne and regional Victoria, including Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Shepparton, Echuca, Mildura, Albury, Bright, Mansfield and across Gippsland.

The roadshows begin this week and cover topics including passive house principles and solar design, how to avoid condensation and address air tightness, energy efficient appliances and building techniques and materials required to deliver better energy efficiency.

Another initiative, Net Zero Homes Skills Training is available now through online training modules that cover the principles of residential energy efficiency, thermal performance, and net zero energy design and construction.

The final initiative, Efficient Home Design and Construction Training will address the key issues faced in the design and construction of energy efficient homes and will be delivered later this year through short training modules.

Demand for rooftop solar and heat pump hot water systems is increasing in Victoria – to help meet this demand now and into the future it's important more plumbers and electricians can get qualified to undertake this work.

That's why the Labor Government is also helping electricians and fourth year apprentices become accredited designers and installers of solar PV and battery storage systems through the Upskilling for Electricians program. This will provide free training for 400 electricians – saving them approximately \$2,000-\$4,500 on course fees.

Another round of free training for plumbers and fourth-year plumbing apprentices to design and install energy efficient heat pumps and solar hot water systems will also be available later this year.

For more information on free training courses, visit solar.vic.gov.au/renewable-homes-construction-training.

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

"We're training our builders, electricians and plumbers so they can build more energy efficient homes – helping Victorians slash their emissions and cut their power bills."

Quote attributable to Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor

"All-electric homes are the future in Victoria and we're making sure our workforce has the right skills for the job."

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