

Thinking of getting a battery for your apartment building?

You may be able to access incentives for a shared battery for your apartment building under the NSW Peak Demand Reduction Scheme (PDRS).



Who is eligible?

Incentives for shared batteries are available for eligible apartment buildings (townhouses and villas are not included under this program but may be eligible for other incentives).

You may be eligible if:

- the property is an apartment building (Class 2), with at least 4 individual dwellings
- you install a battery on the [Clean Energy Council \(CEC\) approved battery list](#)
- the usable battery capacity is greater than 20kWh and less than 200kWh
- the battery will be installed outdoors and behind the meter
- required planning, strata and electricity network approvals are in place.

How does the scheme work?

Under the PDRS, you can get incentives when you install a battery (or other efficient equipment) that can reduce the peak demand for electricity. Accredited Certificate Providers (ACPs) create certificates based on that installation. ACPs will work with a third-party installer or do the work themselves. ACPs can then sell the certificates to fund the discount.

Other incentives

PDRS incentives are also available to sign your battery up to a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) to help supply the grid at peak times. See our [VPP fact sheet](#) and the NSW Climate and Energy Action webpage [Virtual power plant incentive](#) for more information.

You may also be able to get an incentive under the Australian Government's [Cheaper Home Batteries Program](#). Check your options with your ACP.

Things to consider before getting a battery

Is a battery right for you?

A battery can store energy your solar panels make during the day so you can use it later. You can use the stored energy at night or during peak times, which can lower your bills. Savings depend on your energy plan, when you use power, and the capacity of your solar panels and battery.

Talk to your installer to discuss your energy use and what system is right for your property.

Costs

IPART doesn't set prices or the incentives offered. Costs depend on the size and brand of your

battery, the amount of your discount, and whether you combine it with other discounts.

Make sure you understand the costs, benefits and how long it will take for the battery to pay for itself.

Safety and location

Batteries carry a risk of overheating and fire. Your installer should choose a suitable outdoor location and follow all safety requirements. Apartment battery projects can involve shared infrastructure, common property and multiple residents. Exits and common areas need to be managed during work.



Ask how the proposed location manages fire and smoke risks, access, clearances, signage, emergency response and evacuation routes.

Older buildings may need switchboard, meter board or other electrical upgrades. Confirm whether these are included in the quote.

Choose an installer

Select a professional installer with a good reputation. On the day of installation, you can ask to check the installer's licences and credentials. The battery can only be installed by an installer on the [Solar Accreditation Australia \(SAA\) installer list](#). The installer should be able to provide detailed

information about the battery and installation, including the contact details of the ACP they work with. Keep this information, you might need it later if there are any issues.

Warranty and support

Check how long the battery is covered and what the warranty includes. Read the warranty terms to understand any limits, such as how you can use the battery. You may need appropriate insurance in place. Make sure the supplier offers support after installation. Normal consumer rights apply.

Visit NSW Climate and Energy Action page [Guide to owning a battery](#) for more information.

How to get the discount

1. Review the offer

If you are paying for the battery, make sure the offer clearly shows the total battery (or batteries) cost and the discount you are receiving. The ACP manages the discount. Check if you need to [make a minimum payment](#) and how much it is.

Note: Salespeople cannot knock on your door uninvited under the Peak Demand Reduction Scheme.



2. Sign and arrange installation

You will need to get agreement with the residents or strata committee of your apartment building. If you are happy with the offer, you'll be given a form to sign nominating the ACP to create certificates from your battery installation and give you the discount. Keep a copy of any documents you sign. You may need them later.

The installer will then contact you to arrange the battery installation at your building.



If you're not happy

1. Speak to your installer first.
2. If it's not resolved, contact the ACP. Their details are on the nomination form you signed.
3. If you still have problems, contact NSW Fair Trading or Building Commission NSW.
 - [NSW Fair Trading](#) investigates unfair practices and makes sure products sold in NSW are safe and meet regulations. Their website has information on consumer rights, dispute resolution and how to make a complaint.
 - [Building Commission NSW](#) licenses tradespeople (like electricians and plumbers) and ensures they follow the law. Contact them if you have concerns about the work.



If you believe the ACP or installer has not complied with the PDRS or has not responded, contact us through our [Report misconduct page](#) or email: ess@ipart.nsw.gov.au.

Note: An auditor may contact you to confirm installation details. Inspectors from IPART or Building Commission NSW may visit to check the work. Your cooperation helps maintain the integrity of the PDRS.

Where to learn more

✓ NSW Climate and Energy Action

[Apartment batteries](#)

✓ Australian Government

[Cheaper Home Batteries Program](#)

✓ Scan this QR code to get the online version of this fact sheet with active links.

