

Hello

My name is Julian James.

Earlier this year my wife and I had joined a group purchase scheme to buy a 1kw solar system for our house. The bulk purchase, handover of RECS and government solar rebate meant the total cost of our system installed was just under \$3000. This would have provided half our daily electricity use on average.

We have spent a significant amount of money already on energy efficiency measures on our house including window replacement, shading, insulation, and energy efficient lighting. We also purchase 100% accredited greenpower. The Solar panels were the next step in energy efficiency (avoid energy losses that come from purchasing through the grid).

We had signed a contract with Solar Wind Systems to provide the system and paid our deposit. Unfortunately the means test was introduced during this time and were no longer eligible for the rebate. We had to pull out of the contract and get our deposit back.

This has massively changed our thinking on installing solar power. For the \$3000 we were very keen to do it but at the now \$10000+ it becomes a major investment for us.

We want to make a contribution and are prepared to be part of the early mover groups to invest in reducing our impact. However this solar power is in now the realm of an expensive luxury, this also puts it in competition with many other demands and opportunities for our income. In our case there is no economic argument to install solar panels at present but the rebate certainly made it attractive as something we wanted to do for ethical reasons.