



GreenPower for home

By Zero Emissions Noosa

Want to do your bit to help the planet? You can reduce your household or business emissions by buying GreenPower from your electricity retailer. This means buying renewable energy that meets strict criteria and supports renewable energy generation. Your electricity retailer adds your Greenpower to the grid on your behalf, so you can buy GreenPower if you own or rent a property.

Michael and his family rent a unit in Noosaville. "Built in the 1980s, it isn't equipped with solar, or energy efficient fittings, like a lot of rental units in the area," said Michael. "Setting up our electricity account with a retailer, we were keen to purchase Greenpower,

depending on price and how it achieved zero emissions status. Our retailer's GreenPower costs only \$1 per week extra and their zero emissions status is certified by the Australian Government's Climate Active certification program".

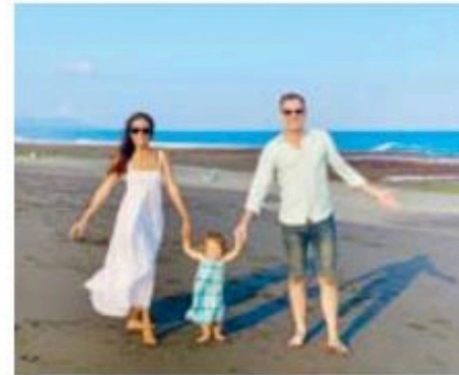
Michael continued: "We felt confident our electricity retailer was sourcing enough renewable electricity (GreenPower) and/or had offsets for our electricity consumption to be properly zero emissions. Their zero emissions program invests in Australian revegetation projects, and an energy efficient cook stove project in Kenya. We are very happy to support these projects through our \$1 per week. The cost of having zero emissions for our family's electricity consumption is only a few percent of our annual electricity bill".

"For larger families in bigger residential properties, the relative cost is even less - perhaps only one to two percent of the annual electricity bill," Michael said. "Most energy retailers provide this kind of zero emissions Greenpower product. You can find that information on their websites".

Michael also advised readers to choose a GreenPower program backed up by an independent and credible verification and certification process like the Australian Government's Climate Active initiative.

Case Study: Emissions Reduction in action at tomato farm Peter Seghers is passionate about his vine-ripened tomatoes grown locally at his Doonan farm. Reducing emissions is the way of the farm in its seven days a week, 7am to 7pm operation.

"It was a natural choice for our company, Noosa Reds, to invest in solar panels, solar hot water and an electric vehicle used for deliveries," says Peter. "Payback was quick, with the solar running the irrigation pumps during the day. When the original panels were paid for, we bought an electric car and solar hot water. We use all the solar electricity we produce during



Michael and family.

Pictures: SUPPLIED



Peter with his electric vehicle.

the day and only at night do we use the grid to keep fridges and lights operating. Our solar investment is giving us a good return, and now we are thinking batteries, so it's very worthwhile to do the investment. I would recommend every business to do it."

Peter says for every problem, nature provides an answer. No chemicals or pharmaceuticals are used on the farm and he maintains that it shows in the taste and quality of the fruit. "What's more important than looking after the environment? We have to leave behind a place that our grandchildren can enjoy."

KEY DRIVER FOR INSTALLING SOLAR

Peter says he installed solar due to high electricity costs, and because the business has an overall emissions reduction approach, he wanted to reduce his use of fossil fuels.

- BUSINESS TYPE
Farming, 7 days a week, 7am to 7pm
- LOCATION
39a Beddington Road, Doonan
- DATE INSTALLED
2014 - 8 kW & 2018 - 6 kW
- SIZE
14kW

- TECHNICAL
Monocrystalline panels
SMA inverter
- ELECTRICITY COST BEFORE SOLAR
\$1,600 per Quarter
- ELECTRICITY COST AFTER SOLAR
Current Electricity Costs \$220 per quarter
- INSTALLATION COST
\$14,000(original 8kW), \$5,800(upgrade)
financed by bank loan
- ESTIMATED PAYBACK PERIOD
4 years (original 8kW) & 2 years (6kW upgrade).
Reducing Your Energy Costs for Business Forum

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Bring your energy bill to ZEN Inc's. Business Forum, on Wed, 24 March, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Bookings essential for COVID compliance. More information and bookings <https://www.zeroemission-noosa.com.au/> This free event is supported by Noosa Council.



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