

## Australia Continues to Set Records in Rooftop Solar PV

With continued, strong growth, Australia retains its place as having the highest per capita capacity of solar in the world with over 810W per person. This trend is set to continue with consistent growth in rooftop and large-scale solar.

By mid-2021, Australia had a massive 22.3 GW of solar installed over 2.86million different sites.

In annual installs, Australia broke records across all rooftop sectors over 2020 with the greatest growth in commercial sized systems.



The Australian Energy Market Operator expects rooftop solar, alone, to account for up to 75 per cent of national grid demand by 2026 and we are seeing new records for minimum demand broken each week as we move through Spring, with increasing solar generation met with low demand for heating and cooling due to mild conditions.

The APVI (Australian Photovoltaics Institute) has released the PV in Australia report for 2020, with analysis showing Australia maintains a leadership position in solar deployment and integration with impressive growth across the roof-top sector that continues into 2021.

### Fun Facts

- At 22.3 GW of solar by mid 2021, Australia now has three times as much total installed capacity as in 2017.
- Australia saw a record 360,000 rooftop systems installed in 2021, an impressive 40% increase over 2020.
- The total new annual rooftop installs hit a new high of 3GW, with 1.8GW on residential roofs and 1.2GW on commercial and industrial roofs.

- Average rooftop system size continues to grow, with the rooftop systems consistently averaging over 8kW in 2020. Average rooftop system size grows consistently year on year with more commercial systems. The average system size was 4kW in mid-2013 and 2kW in mid-2010.
- With 13GW of rooftop solar, we now have roof-top power ten-times the entire installed capacity available in 2011.
- More solar was installed in 2020 alone than the total installed solar in Australia at the end of 2014.

This growth has been helped by rooftop solar system prices, which continue to decline, with an average system price (before subsidies) of AUD \$1.52 per kW.

Solar accounts for 25,340 full time equivalent jobs in Australia, and an additional 250 roles in solar research, and provides as much as 11% of total electricity consumption.

The total value of solar businesses in Australia is estimated at AUD \$7 billion.

Renate Egan, Secretary of the APVI, says “There has been phenomenal growth across the board in the solar industry in Australia, making our country a world leader both in capacity for solar energy production, and a key centre for solar research.”

The PV in Australia report is part of Australia’s contribution to International Energy Agency analysis and outlines key milestones for Solar in Australia including:

- Total solar installed at 20.8GW at the end of 2020 with over 810W per person, giving Australia the highest per capita installed solar in the world.
- 4.5 GW of new solar installed in 2020, putting Australia in the Top Ten solar markets in the world.
- 28% growth in total solar capacity in 2020 despite the global pandemic, nearly tripling the capacity from 2017.
- Installation records across residential and commercial rooftop solar, with no sign of slowing down.

With 2.69 million homes powered by solar at the end of 2020, and continuing strong growth, Australia is on track to have close to 3 million homes powered by solar by the end of 2021. There are now more than 31% of freestanding houses in Australia with rooftop solar installed (with higher averages close to 40% in QLD and SA).

The latest stats are available at <https://pv-map.apvi.org.au/analyses>.

[The National Survey of PV Power Applications in Australia Report](#) is published by the APVI and is prepared as part of Australia’s engagement with the International Energy Agency. It contributes to the longest standing records for solar installed in Australia, going back to 1992, when there was a total of 7MW installed in Australia, all of it off-grid.

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## **National Survey Report of PV Power Applications in Australia, 2020**

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[Full Report PDF](#)

<https://apvi.org.au/national-survey-report-of-pv-power-applications-in-australia-2020/>

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### **About the APVI**

The Australian Photovoltaics Institute is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation which focuses on data analysis, independent and balanced information, and collaborative research. Our objective is to *support the increased development and use of PV via research, analysis and information.*

The APVI promotes solar through its live solar mapping platform [<http://pv-map.apvi.org.au>], the national solar research conference and Australia's participation in two International Energy Agency (IEA) programs – PVPS (Photovoltaic Power Systems) for solar photovoltaics and SHC (Solar Heating and Cooling), concerned with new solar thermal products and services.

[www.apvi.org.au](http://www.apvi.org.au)