

## Does the Australian Government subsidize wind turbines?

In 2024, through the LRET subsidy scheme, a total of \$1.04 billion was transferred from electricity consumers to the largest 50 wind farms operating in Australia. 27 Feb 2025

- Solar power receives \$1.2 billion for both large-scale farms and rooftop installations, aiming to harness Australia's abundant sunshine.
- Wind power is allocated \$900 million for the development of new wind farms and the upgrade of existing ones, enhancing capacity and efficiency.

The industry is sounding the alarm, warning Australia is about to be hit with a tsunami of solar waste as more households take up batteries, thanks to the federal government's new subsidies.

Currently around 4 million homes across the nation have installed solar, equating to more than 150 million panels nationwide when commercial and large-scale systems are included.

But as households upgrade to newer systems, an estimated 4 million individual panels are decommissioned every year.

That figure is set to double to 8 million a year, as Australians install batteries.

Currently, there is no mandatory recycling scheme for solar panels.

As a result, only about 10 per cent of panels are recycled. The rest are stockpiled, sent overseas or end up in landfill.

## Solar waste problem looms following rooftop panel boom, with batteries to add to the pile

With no mandatory scheme, only about 10 per cent of solar panels are recycled, leading to many being shipped offshore or ending up in landfills. The industry is calling for a national product stewardship scheme to reduce costs and manage decommissioned panels. The International Energy Agency predicts that without action, there will be a 30 per cent global shortfall in copper by 2035, and it recommends countries regulate recycling to help bridge the gap. [See less](#)