

The Clean Energy Council 2009 Awards for Excellence

Going Solar picked up three awards (out of four categories entered) at the 2009 ATRAA industry conference held in Canberra. The awards were presented by the Clean Energy Council at a dinner for 550 plus delegates on Friday, July 31, 2009.

☆ **2009 Award for Excellence – Domestic Solar Hot Water** Domestic system at Riddles Creek, Victoria

The project we entered was for a domestic installation where much of the customer's hot water needs (for a household of 2-3) are supplied from the solar panels in spite of the location being in a comparatively cold part of rural Victoria.

One special aspect of this installation is the provision of mains pressure hot water while the primary supplementary heating is from a wood stove. This is achieved by the innovative use of a heat exchanger. An LPG gas booster was also installed to ensure that water is always heated to appropriate levels for health and safety.

Special care was taken in both design and installation to ensure a neat and tidy job.

“We've been very satisfied with our dealings with Going Solar and are pleased with the operation of our system. We had expected to need our gas booster occasionally in spring or autumn, but we haven't ... since the beginning of August 2008. So our hot water has cost us nothing since then. Even so close to the winter solstice, on sunny days we are getting good solar contribution. Boosting from the slow combustion stove gives us the satisfaction of having heating, cooking and hot water all from the one energy source.”

- Customer 20/6/09



☆ **2009 Award for Excellence - Designing & Installing a
Grid-Connect Photovoltaic System less than 5kW**
Overnewton College, Taylors Lakes, Victoria

The project we entered featured a school roof with unusual angles. We chose to use additional framing to ensure that the system was facing true north, thus providing a good example of best practice installation along with an additional 6% output for the life of the system. At the client's request, this system was expanded by another 4.8kW in July 2009. PV systems on schools are important not just because they provide power and help educate students but because they also help promote the concept of solar energy to the wider community.



“As a College we are very happy with the site selected ... It is in a high visibility area, and perfectly aligned to maximise the amount of renewable energy our solar panels can generate from the sun. We have also been pleasantly surprised by the number of enquiries from families and staff about how practical it would be for them to have solar panels installed at their homes.”

- Client 4/6/09



☆ **2009 Award for Excellence Designing & Installing a
Grid-Connect Photovoltaic System 5kW – 20kW**
Uniting Church, Tecoma, Victoria

The project we entered featured a solar array layout designed to compliment the community image desired by the client, in this case in the shape of a large cross, for a church.

An increasing number of community buildings, including places of worship, are choosing to install photovoltaic panels and we believe these provide an opportunity to install quality systems and help promote the concept of solar energy to the wider society.



***“It was a very satisfactory
installation and we as a
community are reaping
the benefits already.”***

- Client 3/6/09



Previous Industry Awards won by Going Solar:

- ☆ **2008 Best Grid-Connected Solar System under 5 kW:**
Domestic system in Williamstown, Victoria.



This project features a solar array layout and orientation (for a new building) designed in conjunction with the client and his architect. It shows that an excellent outcome can be achieved with good planning, detailed preparation and regular consultation with the client.

Given the double storey design of the building, all of the usual OH&S precautions had to be taken and the normal care to make sure that the site was left in a tidy state. The original layout and design of solar grid connect system enabled pre-wiring of solar PV DC wires and solar inverter to the switchboard AC wires before the installation of new plaster boards. The result was the solar array and inverter to distribution board wiring was completed neatly and installed internally inside walls and ceiling cavities.

This installation, while typical of the standard that we strive to maintain, is an excellent example of a PV installation and a good model for our industry. Note that Going Solar also supplied and installed the solar hot water system shown at the far left of the photo.

☆ **2008 Best Grid-Connected Solar System above 5 kW:**
The solar sound wall on the Tulla-Calder Interchange, Victoria.



Australia's first solar noise barrier – while not the first solar sound wall in the world – is important because it is:

- The first solar sound wall in Australia
- Believed to be the first solar noise barrier of its kind in the world.
- A highly visible demonstration of photovoltaics.
- An example of photovoltaics integrated into the built form - acting as a sound wall while producing electricity.

The 500 metre PV system was designed and installed for the Tulla-Calder Alliance, a special government and industry consortium established to rework a major interchange between two freeways. The installation constitutes the first use of solar panels as a noise barrier on an Australian Freeway. The 24.36kWp amorphous silicon array can tolerate some shade, but clever system design was used to minimise even minor shading on the overall installation.

This system was supported by the Sustainability Victoria Renewable Energy Support Fund.

The judges were looking for “innovative, compliant and well-documented systems that demonstrate excellence in the design and installation of Grid-connected Power Systems.”

☆ **2007 Award for Excellence in Grid-Connected Solar Power System (Design and Installation) above 5 kW:**
Building Integrated PV System at Ballarat University, Victoria



Picture Credits: Warwick Johnston

☆ **2006 Award for Excellence in Grid-connected Solar Power System (Design and Installation) above 5 kW:**
The Solar Pergola, Albert Street, South Melbourne, Victoria

