

Real-life solar success story

Page 1 of 1

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Glen & Penny Hocking run two IGA supermarkets in Tasmania, and recently had 72 solar panels installed on the roof of South Riana shop. The current savings per year for the couple is sitting at almost \$5,000 – impressive when you consider future savings on an essential and hefty business service.

The main electricity drain in a retail supermarket is refrigeration. Closed fridges, open coolers and freezers run all day and night. Lighting comes in as a distant second – not only does the store need good light, but every fridge, cooler and freezer also requires lights. The warmer months see a rise in power costs from cooling, though lighting costs tend to stay the same.

Nobody would know that the IGA is now running off solar because you can't see the panels from the street. Despite the lack of showing off being done, Glen and Penny say they are very happy with the results so far, and are looking forward to running their finger down their next power bill and seeing the reduction on paper.

So why did Glen and Penny choose solar for their IGA?

There are the obvious reasons why solar is a good idea, but every company, individual and family who installs solar has their own reasons. This includes a desire to be more environmentally conscious, take more holidays, and best of all, to save on needless expenses. This was no different for Glen and Penny.

The solar panel installation at the South Riana IGA made sense to Glen and Penny because it makes their business more profitable and valuable by saving on overheads – pure and simple. The cost of doing business just had a big drop thanks to the new solar energy system.

How it runs

The beauty of this system, in place since late 2014, is that it runs itself.

Penny hardly checks the website, but sometimes takes a quick look in passing at the inverter screen.

This is what she sees.



What the numbers mean

Financial

Over \$1,000 per quarterly electricity bill just disappears



Power Generated

19,000 kWh annually which is equivalent to a family's entire household power needs for 5 years.



Carbon output

This system will save 3 tonnes of carbon being emitted into the atmosphere - the same amount as running a car for 3 years



The Stats

Solar Panels
72 x 250W
(REC, Norway)

Inverters
1 x 17.5kW
(Fronius, Austria)

Annual Power Generated
19,000 kWh

Payback Period
4.5 years

Annual Power Savings
\$4,750