

# CEFC helps small businesses cut energy bills and boost performance

**Small businesses can use a broad range of options to finance their new equipment, improve lighting and air conditioning and use cleaner vehicles**

Australia's 2.4 million small businesses can now benefit from a broad range of financing options to help them better manage their energy costs, while reducing their carbon emissions.

Energy accounts for a significant share of business costs, especially in regional areas. A recent survey of small business owners found that 62 per cent worry about the cost of their next energy bill and 73 per cent feel that more efficient use of energy would save them money.

New finance arrangements developed by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and co-financiers offer small businesses a range of practical options to help them better manage these costs.

"The CEFC is making it easier for small businesses to get finance to tackle their energy bills. We'd encourage small businesses to speak with their finance providers about some of the many options available to them."

**Oliver Yates**  
CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation



## THE RIGHT TIME TO ACT

With the right finance, businesses can act now to invest in new equipment and see immediate improvements to their energy use and overall business performance. For many small businesses, energy savings of 20 per cent are an achievable goal.

Most businesses could double their energy productivity through upgrades to light and heavy vehicles, manufacturing and agricultural plant and equipment, or introducing a range of solar technologies. Investments in better heating and air conditioning systems, lower emissions and electric vehicles and solar solutions all offer substantial long-term benefits for small business.

Businesses can benefit from lower energy bills and reduced operating costs, as well as new opportunities to make productive changes to their operations, while reducing their carbon footprint.

### IMPROVING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

The CEFC is working with leading Australian finance providers to offer innovative financing options to help small businesses invest in energy efficiency which will improve their overall business performance. These financing partners are able to extend the benefits of the CEFC finance direct to their customers, across a broad range of clean energy technologies, such as:

Air conditioning upgrades

Lighting upgrades

Cleaner light and heavy vehicles

Building management systems

Commercial solar PV and batteries

Plant and equipment



Industrial refrigeration

Biogas and waste-to-energy

Heat exchangers

Energy efficient motors and variable speed drives

Pumps and fans

Co-generation and tri-generation plants

"Typically, we've seen manufacturers upgrade equipment to lower energy costs by up to 30 per cent, building owners retrofit offices to cut base building energy costs by up to 45 per cent, and schools and sporting clubs more than halve their lighting costs using LED lighting."

**Oliver Yates**  
CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation

*Australia's small businesses are the nation's largest employer group and are the backbone of our economy.*

*Research has shown that even a one per cent improvement in Australia's energy efficiency could boost our economy by up to \$1.5 billion.*

### FINANCING OPTIONS

**ENERGY EFFICIENT LOANS:** Designed to help small businesses, manufacturers and not-for-profit organisations upgrade equipment and introduce clean technology. Finance is available for energy efficient lighting, industrial refrigeration, energy efficient motors, pumps and fans, solar and more. Loans have a favourable rate compared to standard equipment loans, allowing business to preserve working capital by financing up to 100 per cent of the purchase price. This is a joint investment between the CEFC and Commonwealth Bank.

#### EQUIPMENT FINANCE - ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**BONUS:** A major investment program to help businesses upgrade vehicles, improve equipment, increase solar use and consider biogas and waste-to-energy options. The program includes a discounted finance rate 70 basis points below NAB's standard equipment finance rate across a diverse range of pre-approved assets, including cars, irrigation systems, solar PV, building upgrades, lighting upgrades, processing line improvements and refrigeration. This is a joint program between the CEFC and National Australia Bank

**CLEANER CARS AND EQUIPMENT:** Get finance for highly efficient cars and light vehicles, solar PV and energy efficient equipment in buildings. This financing program is available for a wide range of commercial activities, including manufacturing, logistics, agribusiness, retail and all levels of government, as well as schools, hospitals and clubs. This CEFC program is co-financed with Firstmac, a leading Australian non-bank lender.

**SOLAR AS A SERVICE:** Cut energy costs with solar, using Origin's rooftop solar power purchase agreement (PPA) offering. Solar as a Service means



businesses do not have to cover the upfront solar PV system costs. Origin owns, installs and maintains the rooftop solar systems, and eligible business customers can buy the solar energy generated from the solar system at a lower rate than average retail electricity tariffs. This CEFC program is in partnership with Origin.

**COMMERCIAL SOLAR:** Install solar PV power systems on the rooftops of businesses, schools and community organisations, from 20 kilowatt arrays to multi-megawatt projects. Suitable for businesses with a minimum 200m<sup>2</sup> of free roof space in good condition, unimpeded and unshaded. Zero capital outlay arrangements are also available under a PPA program. This program is co-financed by the CEFC and Energy Matters.

**For more information, visit the CEFC's website at:**  
[www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au](http://www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au).

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*A 2013 report by Vivid Economics showed that a 1 per cent improvement in Australia's energy efficiency would boost our economy by up to \$1.5 billion.*

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### BUSINESS BENEFITS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Businesses improving their energy efficiency can see positive benefits to their operating costs:

- Businesses using Energy Efficient Loans to upgrade equipment or install solar have typically reduced their energy use by around 30 per cent
- Lighting upgrades can reduce energy use by up to 82 per cent
- With around 90 per cent of energy use in the average office typically coming from office computers and servers, lighting and supplementary air conditioning, the opportunity to cut energy costs can be significant
- In 2012, Australians spent \$9 billion on air conditioning related energy bills and \$3.3 billion on buying and installing new air conditioning equipment. This makes air conditioning a major saving opportunity for small businesses.

"Whether you're a hairdresser, a small industrial company, a suburban grocer or an accountant, there will be ways your business can save money on energy to boost productivity. In many cases you aren't just cutting your energy bills through upgrades, you are working smarter, improving your work place environment and reducing your maintenance costs."

**Oliver Yates**  
*CEO, Clean Energy Finance Corporation*



The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) invests using a commercial approach to overcome market barriers and mobilise investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies.

Since its inception, the CEFC has committed over \$1 billion in finance to investments in clean energy projects valued at over \$3 billion.

The CEFC invests for a positive financial return, with its more than 40 direct investments and 25 projects co-financed under aggregation programs expected to achieve a positive net benefit for the taxpayer. These projects help to improve energy productivity for businesses across Australia, develop local industries and generate new employment opportunities.

The CEFC operates under the *Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012*. More information is available on our website [www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au](http://www.cleanenergyfinancecorp.com.au)

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