



COMMUNITY POWER HUB METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

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**YARRA
ENERGY
FOUNDATION**

How to use *Victorian Energy Compare*

(compare.energy.vic.gov.au)

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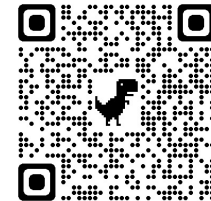


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What is *Victorian Energy Compare*?

Victorian Energy Compare is an independent, Victorian Government website which allows users to compare energy prices across retailers, and choose the offer that saves them the most money. It also allows users to specify that they wish to purchase GreenPower*, supporting renewable energy and reducing emissions.

*GreenPower is a government accredited energy product sourced from 100% renewable energy generation. See the GreenPower website for more information: <https://www.greenpower.gov.au/> or use the QR code to the right.



How will it help me?

There are currently just over 30 energy retailers in Victoria, which makes it confusing for consumers to find the right offer. At the end of the day, all the retailers offer much the same thing: electricity or gas (or both). However, they do it using different pricing structures and contracts, while certain retailers offer renewable energy.

By comparing offers, you can decide which features – such as GreenPower, a no lock-in contract, or cheaper daily supply charges – are most important for you, and pick the best option. Compare retail offers by taking the steps outlined in the following pages.

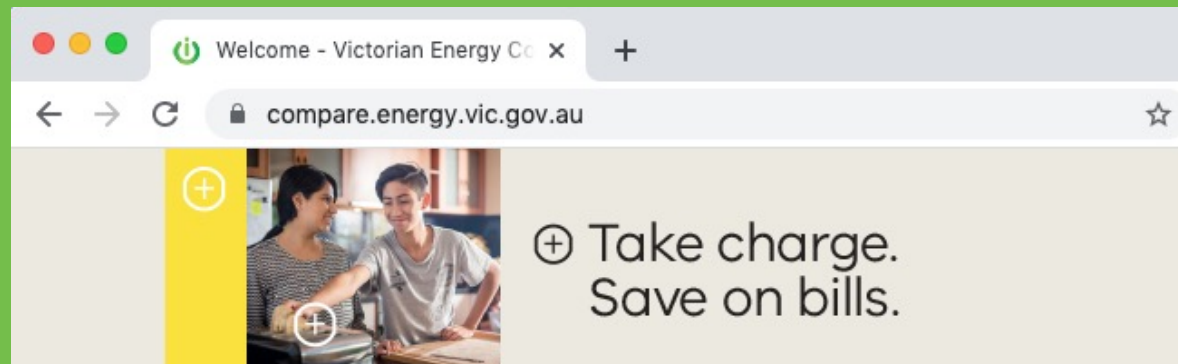


Step 1:

Find the website

Open an internet browser, such as Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari, on a computer, and type the following into the URL/Search bar at the top of the screen: compare.energy.vic.gov.au

This will bring up the webpage. The top of the page should look like this:






Step 2: Get started


First, decide what you wish to compare. Let's start by comparing electricity offers.


Click the left button under the first question; it will turn blue and the next question will appear below. Continue to select the appropriate answers.


Get started

What are you looking to compare?

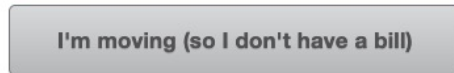
 **Electricity Offers**

 **Gas Offers**

 **Solar Savings**

 To compare both electricity and gas select an energy type on this screen and then add the other energy type when you get to the Available Offers screen.

Where do you need your energy?



Select small business if you are on a business plan, not a residential plan. This information will be on your bill.

Have you been at your
address for the last 12
months? ⓘ



Ensure you know your current retailer and select them from the dropdown menu. You can also begin typing their name to filter the choices. Next, input your postcode below that and press submit.



Step 3a:
Complete the energy
questionnaire

OR

Step 3b:
Submit your data

3a. Complete the energy questionnaire

If you have **not** been at your residence for 12 months, or if you do **not** have a bill, you will be asked to fill out an energy questionnaire regarding, for instance, how many people live in your household, and what kind of heating and cooling you use.

Your answers to the questionnaire will help to build a profile of your approximate energy usage, which will be used to compare retail offers.

3b. Submit your data

If you **have** been at your residence for at least 12 months, the next question asks how you would like to build your energy usage profile.

The website uses your energy usage data from your meter to build an accurate picture of how much energy you are likely to consume over the year, and then determines how much you are likely to pay according to each retail offer.

There are three options to choose from:

How would you like to build your energy usage profile?

[Get my data for me !\[\]\(96cc62f861fdd6e50510c0224a756dff_img.jpg\)](#)[Upload a data file !\[\]\(fa6f3af6bfa46c5d4a2d362681095beb_img.jpg\)](#)[Complete an energy questionnaire !\[\]\(17acf1afa8cdf0b67c53d4865a5ed469_img.jpg\)](#)

If you are unsure, select 'Complete an energy questionnaire'

What is your NMI?

example: 6203000000

Collection Statement

[Read the full collection statement](#)

☐ I have read and agree to the collection statement.

By agreeing to the collection statement and providing your NMI, we can retrieve your smart meter data and provide you with more accurate results.

[Get my data](#)

[Skip this step](#)



Your electricity bill will contain your National Meter Identifier (NMI). This is a 10 or 11 digit number (which in Victoria always begins with a 6), and is usually found towards the start of the bill.

Input your NMI to enable the website to find your energy consumption data.

This ensures accurate information is used when comparing the different offers from retailers.

If you don't have a bill, you can call your energy retailer, who should be able to tell you your NMI if you provide them with your details. If you are unable to find your NMI, read on.

Sometimes the website is unable to fetch the data the first, but is successful on the second try. **If it persistently fails, or if you cannot find your NMI, complete an energy questionnaire instead (select the far right button), which will allow the website to approximate your consumption.** You can still accurately compare retail offers, but it will not use your actual consumption to predict the cost over 12 months.

The middle option – “Upload a data file” – is more complicated, and not necessary for an accurate comparison. However, if it interests you, you can retrieve your smart meter data yourself and upload the file. Instructions for doing this can be found by clicking “Download data”.



Step 4: Energy concession

There are three major energy concessions you may be eligible for, which you can learn about by clicking “Am I eligible?”. You may be eligible for these concessions if you hold a government Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, or a Veteran’s Affairs Gold Card. Often students and low-income earners are eligible.

Further details on concessions and benefits can be found here:
<<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/energy>>

4. Energy concession

Select whether or not you receive an energy concession. This information will be taken into account when presenting retail offers.

To apply for an energy concession, contact your retailer and provide them with your concession card details. They will check your details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.

You will also need to check the box after reading the Disclaimer Agreement in order to proceed.



Step 5: Input your rates

Once you've completed the steps involved in either submitting your smart meter data or completing the questionnaire, you will be shown a list of available offers sorted from cheapest to most expensive.

The webpage should look similar to the picture on the following page, but may be arranged slightly differently.

5. Input your rates

There are a number of options available to you here.

A range of filters can typically be found on the upper left side. You can choose to display offers involving either single rate/flat pricing, flexible pricing, or time of use pricing. It can be complicated including them all, so it may be simpler to compare among one offer type at a time at first.

Offer type ⓘ

☒ Single rate / flat

☐ Flexible pricing ⓘ

☐ Time of use ⓘ

What am I paying?

Add your rates to help you compare your current offer.

☐ Offers sorted by discounted price ⓘ

☒ Show only the top offer for each retailer

FILTERS

Energy retailers +

Features +

Contract length +

External resources +

Compare selected

ENERGY RETAILERS


FEATURES ⓘ

EST. PRICES (inc. GST)

TOP OFFER

[why this offer?](#) | [how is this calculated?](#)

☒



QEnergy Limited

ID: QEN312437MR


[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

With conditional discounts **\$880**

\$ 880 / year

☒



ReAmped Energy Pty Ltd

ID: REA341133MR

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

With conditional discounts **\$880**

\$ 880 / year

13

5. Input your rates

First, it is helpful to determine how much you are currently paying over the course of the year by either:

- Uploading a PDF copy of a bill – this is the simple option.
- Manually entering the details of the rates you are currently being charged (found on the bill) as seen to the right.

Click “What am I paying?” to upload a bill or enter rates manually.

Enter your rate details

[upload file](#)

[Your electricity bill details:](#)

Enter all prices INCLUDING GST

Who is your current electricity retailer?

Powershop Australia

Your electricity bill period: ⓘ

START DATE:

dd/mm/yyyy



END DATE:

dd/mm/yyyy



Do you have off peak? ⓘ

Yes

No

Peak rate for electricity usage: ⓘ

Rate in cents per kWh

example: 24.45

Daily Supply Charge total: ⓘ

for 0 days of electricity supply

Total in \$

Do you have any discounts? ⓘ

Yes

No



Step 6: Apply relevant filters

You can also filter by retailer or select a particular energy product feature, such as showing only offers using GreenPower. The offers will range from including 10% renewable energy to 100% renewable energy. Hover your mouse over the green flower label on each offer to see what proportion is derived from renewable sources.

Other labels may indicate other features or requirements of the offer, such as using a credit card/bank details, or a contract length.

6. Apply relevant filters

In the example to the right, the top offer supplies 25% GreenPower, while the offer below supplies 20%.

You may wish to select the top three offers, or continue scrolling to select an offer with 100% GreenPower, for example.

You may select and compare up to three offers, or you can first choose to view more offers not yet displayed.

Your Current Energy Offer [edit](#)



With discounts **\$1,410** / year

☐ Offers sorted by discounted price ⓘ

☒ Show only the top offer for each retailer

TOP OFFER [why this offer?](#) | [how is this calculated?](#)

☒






ReAmped Energy Pty Ltd
ID: REA341133MR
[view offer](#)

[Eligibility criteria](#)

With conditional discounts **\$920** / year

☒

Powerdirect
ID: POW301357MR
[view offer](#)

[Eligibility criteria](#)



Step 7: Compare offers




Once you've selected three potential retail offers, click the option to compare them. This will bring up the three offers represented in columns for easy cross-checking.

The columns outline the retailer details, the prospective cost over a year (which accounts for variable, seasonal consumption over the year), specific details, and pricing.

7. Compare offers

In this example, there is roughly \$490 difference between the estimated current cost per year (\$1,410) and the cheapest offer (\$920). This equates to a reduction of over one third of the bill (35%) or \$40 per month.

However, it is important to note that it does not show the details of your current offer, so it is a good idea to check your current bill for reference.

 ReAmped Energy Pty Ltd ID: REA341133MR https://www.reampedenenergy.com.au/go/re-vc/ 1800 841 627	 OVO Energy ID: OVO329022MR http://www.ovoenery.com.au/vec/ 1300 937 686	 Powershop Australia ID: POD310748MR http://www.powershop.com.au 1800 462 668
ReAmped Handshake Anytime \$ 920 /year With conditional discounts \$920	The One Plan \$ 1,140 /year With conditional discounts \$1,140	Powershop 100% Carbon Neutral \$ 1,210 /year With conditional discounts \$1,210
Offer Specifics Cooling off period: 10 days GreenPower 25% Rate type: Single rate Offer type: Market offer Contract term: None	Offer Specifics Cooling off period: 10 days GreenPower 100% Rate type: Single rate Offer type: Market offer Contract term: None	Offer Specifics Cooling off period: 10 days GreenPower 100% Rate type: Single rate Offer type: Market offer Contract term: None

7. Compare offers

Some offers may offer cheaper rates but necessitate an annual fee or a lock-contract. Some offers may have cheaper supply charges – the daily cost of being connected to the grid – but more expensive rates.

What is best for you depends on how much power you use, and when you use it. Thankfully, the estimated cost uses your consumption data, and so it gives a good indication of what each offer is likely to cost you.

Offer rate and details	Offer rate and details	Offer rate and details
AEST only	AEST only	Local time
All year	All-year	01 July - 30 June
01 January - 31 December	01 July - 30 June	
Tariff(inc. GST)	Tariff(inc. GST)	Tariff(inc. GST)
Supply charges	Supply charges	Supply charges
80.74 ¢/day	75.35 ¢/day	96.03 ¢/day
Flat	Flat	Flat
All consumption	All consumption	All consumption
16.79 ¢/kWh	19.25 ¢/kWh	20.44 ¢/kWh
Green power	Green power	Green power
Annual total includes 25% GreenPower option	Annual total includes 100% GreenPower option	Annual total includes 100% GreenPower option
Charge	Charge	Charge
\$0.01/ kWh	\$0.05/ kWh	\$0.04/ kWh
Premium FIT [closed]	Current FIT policy	Current FIT policy
1 January - 31 December	1 January - 31 December	1 January - 31 December
All export	All export	All export
60.00 ¢/kWh	8.00 ¢/kWh	6.70 ¢/kWh
Current FIT policy	Premium FIT [closed]	Premium FIT [closed]
1 January - 31 December	1 January - 31 December	1 January - 31 December
All export	All export	All export
7.10 ¢/kWh	60.00 ¢/kWh	66.70 ¢/kWh



Step 8:

Read the fine print and choose an offer

You can click “View this offer” to see the finer details of each offer.

You can also click “Contact”, which will bring up “Additional offer details”, such as eligibility, price changes and expire details, as well as instructions on how to switch retailers.

8. Read the fine print and choose an offer

Be cautious: switching retailers may involve fees if you break a contract with your current retailer.

Some offers include conditions whereby the retailer may vary the charges with prior notice – sometimes no more than once per year, although sometimes this is not specified. While this may not mean the offer is poor value, this is something to be aware of, as the Compare website cannot predict future price changes.

Nonetheless, once you've found compared a range of offers, you can rest assured you have used accurate information to explore all the offers that the market has to offer, and you can be confident in making a choice of your next electricity retailer. Congratulations!

At this point, you may wish to take a break – this is understandable!

Once you have recuperated, you may wish to compare offers for gas rather than electricity. The process is very similar, although there is less variation among gas offers.

There is also an energy quiz on the first page. Test your knowledge – you may learn something!

Energy Info Hub (powered by Consumer Policy Research Centre): <https://energyinfohub.org.au/>

Brotherhood of St Laurence Energy Assistance Program: <https://www.bsl.org.au/services/energy-assistance/>

More ways to save: <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/Manage-my-energy>

Sustainability Victoria – Energy efficiency and reducing emissions: <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions>



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