



Australian Government

A U S T R A L I A N
A P P R E N T I C E S H I P S

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New Energy Apprenticeships Program

FAQS

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What is Clean Energy?

Clean energy is sometimes referred to as 'green', 'new' or 'renewable' energy. It comes from natural resources that are constantly replaced and never run out. There are many clean energy sources and technologies such as:

- solar
- wind
- hydroelectricity
- hydrogen
- geothermal and bioenergy

The clean energy sector includes activities involved in:

- **designing, developing, constructing, and operating the infrastructure for generating, storing, transmitting, and distributing energy from renewable, zero or low emissions energy sources.** In addition to renewable electricity, zero and low-emission energy sources include low carbon liquid fuels such as hydrogen and biomethane.
 - For example: hydroelectricity, rooftop solar, large-scale solar, wind turbines, home, and grid scale batteries as well as transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- **reducing or managing energy use. This may include increasing residential, commercial, and industrial energy efficiency.** Energy-efficient homes and buildings use less energy to heat, cool, and run appliances and electronics. Energy-efficient manufacturing facilities use less energy to produce goods.
 - For example: installing insulation, glazing and more efficient appliances and machinery including heating and cooling as well as measuring and assessing energy efficiency.
- **installing and maintaining the technology that uses clean energy rather than fossil fuels. This may include the electrification of machines, equipment, processes, and vehicles.**
 - For example: Replacing or altering heavy machinery and equipment (such as an industrial furnace) to use electricity rather than coal/gas. Replacing gas heating and cooking equipment in homes and businesses. Deploying and maintaining zero or low emissions vehicles and supporting infrastructure, including chargers.

What is the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

From 1 January 2023, the Australian Government's New Energy Apprenticeships Program provides incentives to support new apprentices taking up an apprenticeship to work in the clean energy sector.

Why has the government introduced this program?

The Australian Government recognises that skills in clean energy sectors are needed for Australia's future economic growth. That's why the government is committed to investing in, and developing, the clean energy sector.

The New Energy Apprenticeships Program assists more apprentices and trainees to skill-up in sectors with exposure to clean energy and will increase the skilled workforce required to deliver Australia's clean energy infrastructure now and into the future.

What can apprentices receive from the program?

The New Energy Apprenticeships Program will be available to eligible Australian Apprentices, where their employer can provide **meaningful exposure, experience, and work** in a clean energy sector role, of up to \$10,000 for a full-time apprenticeship and up to \$5,000 for a part-time apprenticeship over the life of the Australian Apprenticeship.

Who is eligible for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

To be eligible for the New Energy Apprentice Apprenticeships Program, an apprentice must:

- Meet the primary eligibility requirements.
- Be training towards an identified clean energy occupation on the [Priority List](#).
- Be undertaking a Cert III, IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualification that leads to a clean energy occupation listed on the [Priority List](#).

In addition, the employer must demonstrate and declare:

- The business can provide the Australian Apprentice with **meaningful exposure, experience, and work** in the clean energy sector. The work should be appropriate to the Australian Apprentice's skill level and/or off the job training.

In addition, a signed declaration must be received from:

- The Australian Apprentice stating their commitment to build skills in the clean energy sector, including selecting clean energy electives in their training (where available and appropriate).

What does meaningful exposure, experience and work mean?

- **Meaningful:** useful and relevant engagement that must develop the skills required to work in the clean energy sector at the completion of their apprenticeship and/or in the future.
- **Exposure:** access to a range of clean energy sector tools, technology, methods, and worksites, including demonstration by skilled tradespeople.
- **Experience:** access to education, instruction, training, or industry knowledge of the clean energy sector, combined with a VET qualification specified on the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List. By the final year, an apprentice will be able to show they have gained specific skills and knowledge in the clean energy industry.

- **Work:** undertake paid activities based on the occupation the apprentice is undertaking in the clean energy sector

Are Group Training Organisations (GTOs) eligible employers?

Yes, GTOs who can provide host employer opportunities that align to the requirements of meaningful exposure, experience and work in the clean energy sector are eligible. This may include rotations amongst several employers to ensure the required training is delivered.

Is my employer eligible for an incentive?

Yes, because Clean Energy Occupations are a subset of the Priority List, your employer is likely to be eligible for the Priority Hiring Incentive. The Priority Hiring Incentive is up to \$5,000 paid over two instalments, with \$2,000 at six months and \$3,000 at twelve months.

Employers are encouraged to contact their [Apprentice Connect Australia Provider](#).

How do I apply for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

To become a New Energy Apprentice, or for further information about the process, contact your [Apprentice Connect Australia Provider](#).

I am already undertaking an apprenticeship in a clean energy occupation, am I eligible for the New Energy Apprenticeships Program?

No. The New Energy Apprenticeships Program is only available to eligible apprentices commencing from 1 January 2023. The **new eligibility requirements** are only available for new apprentices who commence **from 1 June 2024**.

However, existing apprentices undertaking an apprenticeship in a [Priority List](#) occupation are still eligible for the Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment.

To check what you may be eligible to receive, please contact your [Apprentice Connect Australia Provider](#) for help.

Can I claim both the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment and the Apprentice Training Support Payment?

No. Australian Apprentices are only eligible for **one** support payment, either:

- the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment; or
- the Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment.

The maximum amount claimable for a New Energy Apprentice is \$10,000 over the course of the apprenticeship.

To check what you may be eligible to receive, please contact your [Apprentice Connect Australia Provider](#).

How is the incentive paid?

Australian Apprentices will receive up to \$10,000 over the course of their apprenticeship.

For a 4-year full-time apprenticeship, an Australian Apprentice will receive:

- \$2,000 on completion of the first 6 months
- \$2,000 on completion of the first, second and third years of study
- \$2,000 on completion of the apprenticeship.

Payments are made directly to a nominated bank account via the Apprenticeship Data Management System.

Where can I find the list of clean energy occupations?

Clean Energy occupations have been marked as a subset on the [Australian Apprenticeship Priority List](#). The Clean Energy Occupations are shaded in green.

How are clean energy sector roles selected?

Occupations identified as clean energy on the [Priority List](#) must meet the following criteria:

- Assessed by Jobs and Skills Australia as being in national shortage.
- Classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) on Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) as either:
 - Technicians and Trades Workers (Major Group 3)
 - Community and Personal Service Workers (Major Group 4)
- Skills in demand that align to the needs of the clean energy sector, as identified through consultation and feedback from industry.

What happens if an employer is no longer able to provide meaningful exposure, experience, and work within the clean energy sector?

In the situation where an apprentice is assessed as eligible for the New Energy Apprentice Support Payment (NEASP) on commencement or recommencement, however due to a change in circumstances their employer is no longer able to provide meaningful exposure, experience, and work within the new energy sector over the life of the apprenticeship the apprentice would:

- no longer be eligible for NEASP; and
- become eligible for Australian Apprenticeship Training Support Payment (AATSP) from the next available payment.

This situation is the only exception to eligibility being assessed at commencement or recommencement.

If the information provided by the Apprentice and Employer was true and correct the department will not seek to recover any NEASP already received. In the event of misleading or incorrect information being provided by the Apprentice and Employer an overpayment may be raised against the Australian Apprentice for that period by the Department.

Once an apprentice has moved from NEASP to AATSP they are unable to be reassessed for NEASP during the remainder of the apprenticeship.

What are examples of eligible sectors and types of renewable energy?

Eligible sectors include but are not limited to:

- electrical vehicle maintenance and repair
- rooftop solar installation and maintenance
- large-scale renewable projects
- green hydrogen and renewable manufacturing
- relevant agricultural activities

Types of Renewable Energy include:

- Solar power
- Bioenergy
- Wind power
- Hydro power
- Battery storage
- Geothermal energy
- Smart technology
- Ocean energy
- Grid strengthening technologies