

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the feed-in tariff?

On the 21st of July, 2010, Government announced a feed-in tariff scheme for electricity produced through photovoltaic systems. It was established that

- a) Electricity generated by PV systems installed on residential or domestic premises in Malta and exported to the grid is paid by Enemalta at €0.25 for every kWh (unit). This feed in tariff is guaranteed for 8 years;
- b) Electricity generated by PV systems installed on residential or domestic premises in Gozo and exported to the grid, is paid by Enemalta at €0.28 for every kWh. This feed-in tariff is guaranteed for eight years.
- c) Electricity generated by PV systems installed on premises used for commercial purpose (companies, factories, restaurants and hotels etc) and exported to the grid, is paid by Enemalta at €0.20. This feed in tariff is guaranteed for seven years.

2. Can I export any amount of kWh I want at the feed-in tariff?

No, the feed in tariff shall be paid for electricity exported up to a limit as follows

- a) In the case of PV on residential or domestic premises you can export up to 4800kWh at the feed in tariff; and
- b) In the case of PV installed on premises for commercial use you can export up to 160,000kWh at the feed in tariff.

3. What happens if I export to the grid more than the limit allowed for my PV system?

Any excess units exported above the limit allowed will be paid at the marginal cost of Enemalta which in 2010 is 0.11€/kWhr. The marginal cost will be announced on a yearly basis to reflect the actual Enemalta marginal cost in that particular year.

4. Can the Feed-In Tariff change ?

No if your PV is approved in the in the feed in tariff scheme of 2010, the feed in tariff is fixed for the guarantee period as in the FIT Regulations 2010.

(Note that each year a new FIT scheme may be launched but it would be applicable for those installations and agreements signed in that particular year)

5. Can I choose between net-metering and the feed-in tariff?

The net-metering enjoyed by owners of PV's already connected to the grid is no longer offered as an option. Only those already benefiting from this arrangement can continue with the agreement they have regarding net-metering although they may also opt change to a feed-in tariff scheme.

6. What is better net-metering or the feed-in tariff?

It depends on the type of consumption that one has and the tariffs applicable to that consumption.

7. Can I consume the energy produced by my pv system instead of exporting that energy on the grid?

You may consume the electricity generated by your PV at the time it is produced. Any units that are not consumed instantaneously will be exported to the grid and will be paid at the feed in tariffs and at the conditions as explained in questions 1,2,3 . Any units imported from Enemalta Corporation for consumption will be charged at the applicable electricity tariffs for the supply of electricity by Enemalta..

8. I do not have a smart meter. Does my old meter have to be changed?

Yes

9. I have a smart meter installed. Is there still a need for the 'MRA meter' to be installed?

In the case where you opt to consume the electricity generated by the PV and export the extra units generated in accordance the feed in tariff scheme 2010 you will need the "MRA meter" that measures all the electricity produced by the PV together with the meter that measures your consumption of electricity supplied by Enemalta.

If you choose to sell all the electricity generated by the PV to Enemalta then you will need an export meter provided by Enemalta to measure the electricity exported to the grid apart from the meter necessary to measure the your consumption of electricity supplied by Enemalta.

10. What is an import/export meter?

An import/export meter is an electricity meter that can measure:
the surplus electricity generated by your PV that is not consumed in your premises and is fed into the grid and the amount of electricity that is imported from the grid, which is supplied and billed by Enemalta

11. How is the feed-in tariff going to be paid?

Enemalta may deduct the amount due to the you for the electricity generated by your PV installation and exported to the grid from the amount due to Enemalta for the supply of electricity. If the amount due to the owner of the PV is in excess of the bill for the consumption of electricity for the particular billing period the surplus amount would be carry forward in the form of a credit note.

12. Does this mean that Enemalta can continue to carry forward the credit note and without ever paying me the balance due to me?

No, after four consecutive billing periods you may ask Enemalta to pay any balance due to you.

13. Do I have to pay VAT and income tax on the money received from Enemalta Corporation for the units generated by my pv system?

The feed-in tariff payable to households will be income-tax and VAT exempt. Revenue and expenses relating to PV systems installed on premises used for commercial purposes shall be considered as part of normal business of the company/entity concerned.

14. I already have a PV system connected to the network with the net metering arrangement, how can I switch over to the feed-in tariff scheme ?

In your case you may have already received a power purchase agreement form from Enemalta. In order for Enemalta to pay you the feed in tariff for the electricity you export you must sign and submit this power purchase agreement form to Enemalta. Apart from the power purchase agreement with Enemalta you will be required to submit to the MRA a “Request to participate in the FIT scheme” in 2010.

15. What is Request to participate in the FIT scheme”

The “ Request to participate in the FIT scheme” form is a form you will soon find on the MRA website which enables you to apply for participation the FIT scheme and choose from the two available options:

- i. sell all the PV electricity generated to Enemalta according to the thresholds established (FAQ’s 1,2,3) OR
- ii. generate for your own consumption at the time of generation and export any surplus electricity up to the thresholds(FAQ’s 1,2,3) with the feed in tariff.

16. Will all the requests for participation in the FIT scheme 2010 be accepted

The request is subject to approval by the MRA in accordance with the FIT Regulations 2010.

17. If I want to remain on the net metering arrangement do I need to do anything?

No.

18. I want to remain on the net metering arrangement but I want to increase the size of the PV, can I do it?

No, you may only remain on the net metering arrangement for the size of PV at the time of connection to the network (that is when Enemalta installed the MRA meter and the import/export meters). If you want to increase the size of your PV you have to switchover to the new Feed in tariff scheme and the net metering arrangement will cease to be in effect. This also applies if a separate system is installed in the same premises.

19. I want to install a new PV system and participate in the FIT scheme 2010

You need to do the following:-

- (i) If your PV system size is **not** larger than 16Amps per phase you must submit a notification during the year 2010 and using the form on the MRA website named "Electricity generation using photovoltaic panels, small combined heat and power (CHP) plant and microwind turbines (not larger than 16 Amps per phase @ 230/400 V)"
http://www.mra.org.mt/Downloads/licences/Notification_%20v4.doc
- (ii) If your PV system is larger than 16Amps per phase you must submit an authorisation application during the year 2010 and using the form on the MRA website named "Authorisation to construct or reconstruct a PV installation larger than 16Amps per phase at 230V"
http://www.mra.org.mt/Downloads/licences/PV%20Authorisation%20application_v4.doc
- (iii) You must fill in a "Request for participation in the FIT scheme 2010" form preferably submitted when you submit the notification or authorisation form. In case you have already submitted a notification or authorisation form you need only to submit the request for participation in the FIT scheme form.

- (iv) The Authorisation application process requires that you sign a power purchase agreement with Enemalta.

(note that in the case of a new PV installation you are bound to install a the PV within 12 months from the date of the notification to the MRA or authorisation issued by the MRA as applicable). This means also you must apply with Enemalta for the necessary meters to be installed.

20. When will the period for guaranteed payment of the feed in tariff start?

The period for guaranteed payment of the feed in tariff will start once the PV system is connected to the grid through the necessary metering provided by Enemalta.

In the case of owners of PV installations already connected to the grid and benefiting from the net metering arrangement and switching over to the FIT scheme, the guaranteed period for the payment of the feed in tariff would include the time during which they have benefited from the net metering arrangement. For example for a PV system installed two years ago on a residential premises connected to the grid through the necessary metering provided by Enemalta the guarantee period for the feed in tariff would be 6years i.e. 8 years less the 2 years for which the net metering arrangement was applicable.

The information provided is for general guidance to the Feed-in Tariffs (Electricity Generated from Solar Photovoltaic Installations) Regulations, 2010.

However, the Authority accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the information provided which is of a general nature only and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity, not necessarily comprehensive, complete, accurate or up to date and is not professional or legal advice (if you need specific advice, you should always consult a suitably qualified professional).

Only the Feed-in Tariffs (Electricity Generated from Solar Photovoltaic Installations) Regulations, 2010 published in the Government Gazette are deemed authentic.