



# Solar for Apartments

## SolShare FAQs

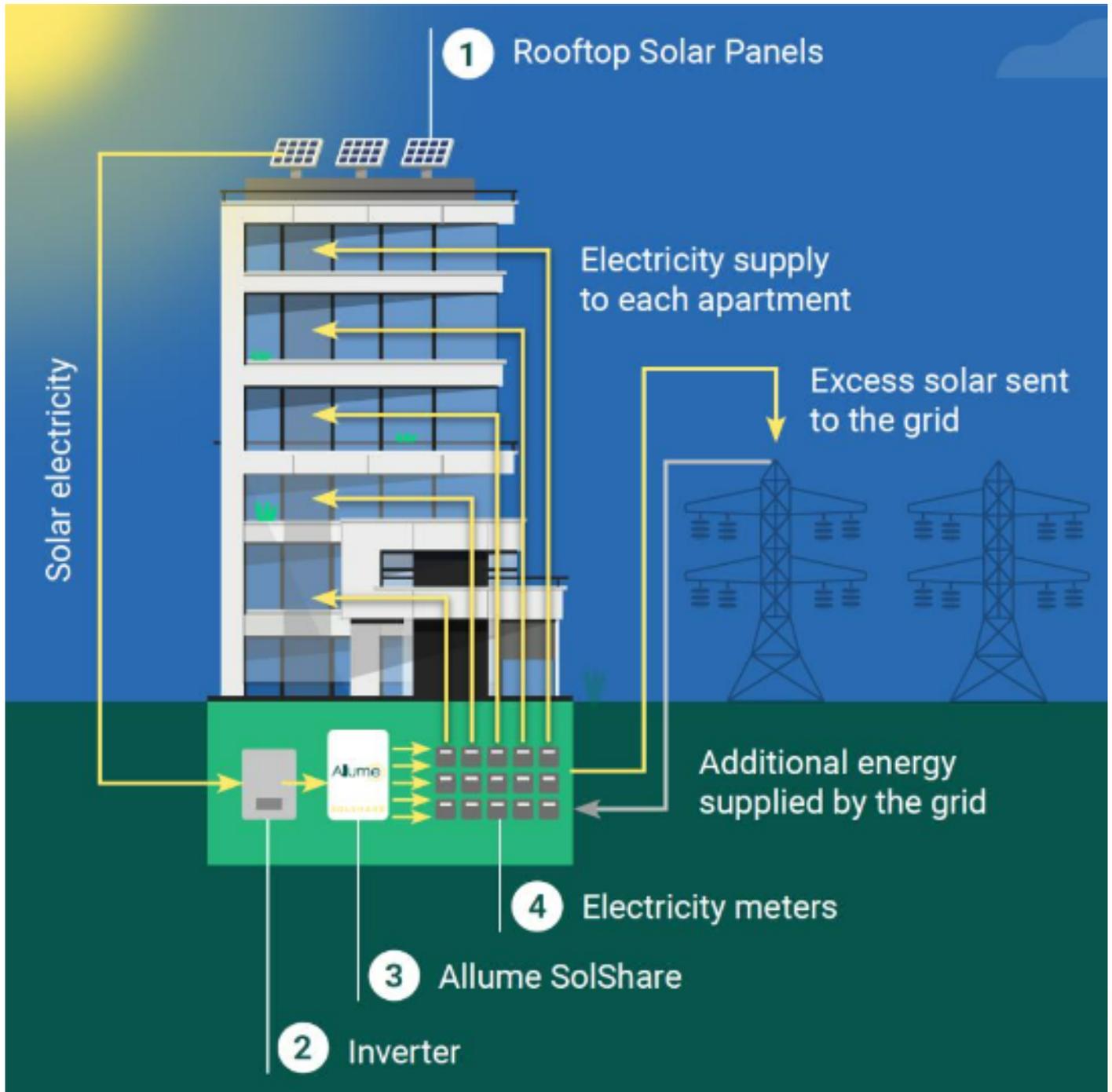


Information for:  
**OWNERS & RENTERS**

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# Introduction - How SolShare works



# Benefits of SolShare

With SolShare's dynamic sharing, electricity is sent to other units that need instead of feeding it back to the grid. In short, SolShare allows apartments to use more of the energy from the solar system and save more money!

## Without the SolShare

If each apartment had its own small rooftop solar installation, then most of the solar electricity generated is sent to the grid instead of the apartment (the green shaded area).



## With the SolShare

The SolShare ensures solar electricity is sent to the apartments that are using power at that time. This maximises solar use in the apartments (the yellow shaded area) and reduces electricity bills as much as possible.



## Owner occupiers

- Increase asset value
- Generate clean electricity
- Protect yourself from price volatility

## Landlords

- Increase property value
- Rent your property faster
- Improve tenant retention

## Renters

- Get your fair share of solar
- Generate clean electricity
- Protect yourself from price volatility

## Strata managers

- Future proof your building with solar & smart meters
- Residents experience no change or disruption to energy access



- 1 Can a tenant opt in at a later date?**  
If a resident chooses to opt in at a later date they may be required to contribute to the Strata Fund.
- 2 Do all tenancies need to take part in the shared solar system?**  
No - while we typically see all tenancies enjoy the benefits of solar, your building may choose to allocate solar to only a subset of all tenancies.
- 3 How does the SolShare distribute the solar generation amongst the tenancies?**  
An algorithm within in the SolShare monitors the solar power available and the loads at the points of connection to confirm what power is required and where.
- 4 How do we know if it's distributing the solar correctly?**  
The algorithm will also keep a history of use and can be set to ensure the correct allocation of solar power is achieved.
- 5 Is there a monitoring portal available to show how much solar is generated and allocated to each tenancy?**  
SolShare Monitoring Portal access can be made available to each tenant to monitor their own solar allocation. Additional access to see the whole building's solar generation and allocations can be made available to your building or strata manager, and your solar installer.
- 6 Can other tenants see my electricity usage?**  
No.
- 7 Can I send some of my unused solar to my neighbours so they get energy cheaper?**  
Solar generation shared by the SolShare is allocated based on the fair sharing algorithm chosen by your building. This algorithm will allocate solar to those tenancies who need solar now. Other tenancies will receive their allocation at different times of the month when the solar is more valuable to them. As such, your neighbours always benefit from an increased solar allocation when you don't need it, and you will benefit when they don't need it.

## **8 Will I receive a Feed In Tariff (FIT) for any unused solar?**

You will receive a FiT for any unused solar allocated to you if:

1. You have a bi-directional smart electricity meter (speak to your solar installer to get that organised)
2. You have chosen a tariff with your electricity retailer that pays a FiT.

## **9 Who owns the shared solar system?**

The owner's corporation / body corporate owns the shared solar system. When tenancies are sold and bought, this is done so with the portion of the shared solar system attached to the tenancy.

## **10 Who do we pay for the shared solar system? Who provides the installation warranty and post-installation support?**

Your solar installer will be installing the whole shared solar system (including the SolShare) and are therefore the company that you will pay for this. We recommend talking to them about their workmanship warranty, how they support your product warranties and what they include for post-installation support.

Allume is here to help answer your SolShare-related questions but your solar installer is the expert about other parts of the solar system and what is best for your particular building.

## **11 How does the building pay for the shared solar system?**

Your building will typically pay your solar installer for the whole shared solar system (including SolShare). This may be paid in a number of ways, including:

1. From you building's sinking fund, and/or
  2. Raising an additional levy per tenancy, and/or
  3. Using financing through a finance provider
  4. Through a power purchase agreement (PPA) with a PPA provider
- Your solar installer can advise on the options available to your building.

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Your solar installer can advise on the options available to your building.

## 13 **How do we most efficiently have a shared solar system approved for installation in our building?**

Installation of solar equipment in common areas of your building (e.g. roof, electrical risers and cupboards, etc.) requires owner's corporation / body corporate approval. This is typically done by vote at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special or Extraordinary General Meeting (SGM or EGM). Please consult your building's proposal provided by Allume for more information. If you have further questions, get in touch with your strata / body corporate manager.

## 14 **Does installation of a shared solar system require entry into my apartment by my solar installer?**

No. Typically, all electrical work to install a shared solar system is done in common areas (e.g. roof, electrical risers and cupboards, switchboard rooms, etc.).

## 15 **My building is operated as an embedded network - is a shared solar system still an option?**

Typically, we see shared solar systems installed in buildings where each tenancy has their own retail meter, or NMI. However, there is no technical reason why a shared solar system cannot be installed in an embedded network. Allume recommends speaking to your embedded network provider to ensure there are no contractual issues with installing a shared solar system in your building.



## TECHNICAL

### **16 Some of the residents have single phase power, but I have three phase power, is this an issue?**

Typically, this should not be an issue. Your solar installer will take this into account when designing the solar system and advising on SolShare solar sharing algorithms.

### **17 What sort of solar capacity per tenancy does a typical shared solar installation have?**

Depending on how many apartments are in your building and how much roof space is available. The average allocation of solar capacity per tenancy typically ranges from 1kW - 5kW.

### **18 The amount of solar allocated to my apartment seems low (on a kW basis), why is this?**

This kW rating for your tenancy is simply an average across the whole building. Since the SolShare allocates solar in an optimised way, you may receive a significantly higher solar allocation in kW at those times that you most need solar (that is, when you are using electricity in your apartment).

### **19 Can we install batteries with a shared solar system?**

Batteries are a great way of storing excess solar power for use at other times. The SolShare works well with batteries - we recommend speaking to your solar installer to understand which battery options are best for your building.





## WARRANTIES

**12** **What is the warranty of the SolShare?**  
The SolShare has a 10 year Product Warranty

**13** **What is the expected life of the system?**  
Most solar components have an expected life span between 10 and 25 years. The operating life of the SolShare is expected to exceed its product warranty period. Speak to your solar installer about the warranties associated with their workmanship and the products they recommend for your building.





## ENERGY RETAILERS

### 15 Can I choose to be with the retailer of my choice? Can I choose a different retailer to my neighbour?

One of the great benefits of a shared solar system with SolShare is that each tenant can retain freedom of choice over which electricity retailer they buy their electricity from. You do not need to be with the same retailer as your neighbour.

NB: If your building is operated as an embedded network, you will still need to buy electricity from your embedded network operator.

### 16 Is Allume involved with any particular retailers?

Generally no - however if you have entered into a Power Purchase Agreement, you may have to choose the electricity retailer who owns or leases the PV system located on the apartment building.





## EVS

### 17 Can I connect an EV to my apartment?

You can connect an EV charger with or without solar (we recommend with solar!). Typically, you can plug in a slow EV charger fairly easily. Higher power or rapid EV chargers may require approval from your owner's corporation / body corporate.

### 18 All the residents are looking at getting their own EV, how does the SolShare work in this scenario?

The SolShare will allocate solar to an EV charger as it would with any electrical load in your apartment. Allume recommends speaking with an energy consultant with proven experience in the design and implementation of EV chargers in apartment buildings. Installing multiple EV chargers in an apartment building typically requires an investigation of your existing electricity infrastructure, in combination with any current or existing shared solar system.

### 19 Can I charge my EV with my solar allocation?

The SolShare will allocate solar to an EV charger as it would with any electrical load in your apartment. Depending on the type of EV charger you have, electricity from the grid may need to supplement the available solar to charge your EV.





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