

Renewable Energy and Environmentally Sustainable Design Case Studies

St Joseph's Parish – PV & SHW

Site: West Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria

Dates:

- Design Phase Commencement: December 2002
- System Commissioning: July 2003

Client: St Joseph's Parish

Project Goals:

Provide solar hot water and grid-connected solar electricity for an elderly residents' community.

Project Features:

St Jo's represents our first provision of services for an Intentional Community, in this case providing PV grid-interactive system design and installation on eight units. There is also a ninth PV system on the community-use building. Another feature is the design and installation of solar hot water systems for the eight units.

This Intentional Community provides independent living for elderly residents in roomy, north-facing villas. Some of the residents are quite elderly and although they know the solar equipment is on the roofs, they have little comprehension how the systems work or that the renewable energy systems are providing a considerable proportion of their hot water and electricity needs.

A key feature was the aesthetics and keeping the installations looking tidy. To this end, the hot water tanks were mounted at ground level with the water being circulated by small, efficient pumps.

Project Team:

- Stephen Ingrouille, General Manager, Going Solar
- Alan Barlee, Director, Solar Rays
- John Budd, PV Installer, Radiant Energy
- Phil Hapgood, PV Installer, Radiant Energy
- Glenn Robertson, Electrician
- Steve Cook, Electrician

Further Information:

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Solar Hot Water and Photovoltaic panels – note the neat appearance and absence of roof tanks



Solar Hot Water & PV Panels



Courtyard and Parish Church



Solar hot water storage tank

Inverter for connecting the PV panels to the grid power