

New Power For Old Markets

Melbourne's infamous Queen Victoria Market will be fitted with solar panels in a bid to reduce the facility's annual power bills.

About 1,300 solar photovoltaic panels fitted to the market's north facing roof space should supply up to 40% of the facility's annual energy requirements.

The 190 kW system is expected to generate 250 MWh of electricity each year, which is enough to power 50 homes. The system is expected to reduce the market's greenhouse gas emissions by more than 250 tonnes per year.

The project is the largest city solar power project in Australia to date. The contract for supply and installation was won by BP Solar, who also supplied solar systems for the Homebush Olympic site, and Origin Energy. As part of the deal with the Melbourne City Council, Origin Energy will buy back excess energy generated by the panels.

Installation of the 1,300 solar panels will begin in October 2002 and should be completed by early March 2003. No construction will take place between December and January, which is the market's peak trading period.

The solar panels will generate power for at least the next 30 years.

