



Net Metering Q&A

Q. What is net metering?

A. Net metering is an arrangement where customers generate their own electricity and get a credit on their bill for any excess self-generated electricity that flows back into the utility's distribution system. The customer gets a lower bill in two ways: (1) the self generation displaces electricity the customer would otherwise have purchased from the electric utility (or competitive supplier); and (2) the customer's bill is also lowered by the amount of electricity the customer feeds back into the system.

Q. How does net metering work?

A. A net metering customer has a qualifying self-generating facility that is connected to the local electric utility's distribution system. Whenever that facility generates more electricity than the customer needs, the excess electricity flows backward through the customer's meter, making it turn in reverse. This reverse metering results in a lower month-end meter reading, thus lowering the customer's bill.

Q. What if the meter runs backward more than it runs forward?

A. In that case the month-end meter reading will be lower than the beginning meter reading, and there will be a negative (credit) amount on the bill.

Q. What happens to that credit?

A. The credit can be used to offset charges in future months. However, if the customer's bill shows credit amounts for 3 consecutive months, the customer can request a cash payment for the total accumulated credit.

Q. Under net metering, are all charges subject to the credit?

A. Any charge that is measured on a kiloWatt hour (kWh) basis will be reduced by the backward movement of the meter. Most residential customers are billed this way. Many commercial customers, however, are billed (at least partially) according to demand and use demand meters that measure kiloWatts (kW) instead of kWh. Since demand meters do not run backwards, demand charges are not credited under net metering. However, you can still reduce your demand charges by generating your own electricity consistently during periods when your demand is high.

Q. What are the requirements to be a qualifying customer-generator?

A. Qualifying facilities include solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, hydropower, microturbines (with a capacity of 100 kW or less), and fuel cells. Such facilities must also be located on a customer generator's premises, and be connected in parallel to the utility's system. Finally, the generation facility must be intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's electricity requirements.

Q. Could everyone become a net-metered customer-generator?

A. No; electric suppliers (electric utilities and competitive suppliers) are only required to offer net metering until the total generating capacity of all enrolled customer-generators equals 1 percent of the supplier's aggregate customer peak demand in Ohio.

Q. So this is a first-come, first-served arrangement?

A. Yes.

Q. How do I arrange to be a customer-generator and take advantage of net metering?

A. Call your electric utility and tell them you would like to apply to become a “ net-metered **customer-generator.**” You will need to comply with the requirements of the utility’s net metering tariff and its interconnection tariff.

Q. What if I choose a competitive electric supplier?

A. You would also need to sign a net metering contract with that supplier.

Q. What if I am served by a rural electric cooperative or a municipal-operated electric utility?

A. Rural electric cooperatives and municipal-operated electric utilities are not required to offer net metering, but some of them are doing it anyway. You will need to check with them to make sure.

Q. Is there anything else?

A. Yes; the PUCO would like to hear about any problems you encounter making arrangements for net metering with your utility and/or competitive supplier. Just call our Public Interest Center, 1-800-686-PUCO.

Internet Links to Ohio Net Metering Information

- The Rule that applies to local electric utilities (Rule 4901:1-10-28) :
http://www.puc.state.oh.us/ohioutil/Energy/ERIndustry/er4901_1-10.pdf

The Rule that applies to competitive suppliers: (Rule 4901:1-21-13):
http://www.puc.state.oh.us/ohioutil/Energy/ERIndustry/er4901_1-21.pdf

- Links and instructions for accessing the net metering tariffs for the individual local electric utilities:
CG&E: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/CGE/RegsSECTIONVI.pdf> (see page 3 of 4)
CEI: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/CEI/CEI2001PUCO%20No.13.pdf> (click on the "Riders" [+ sign], then click on Rider No. 17)
CSP: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/CSOE/CURRENTTARIFF/CSPUBD5.pdf> (click on "NEMS")
DPL: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/DPL/DPLDistribution.pdf> (go to Sheet No. D5, page 5 of 7)
MP: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/monpow/monpwrel.pdf> (go to Sheet No. 22)
OE: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/OHED/OE2001PUCO%20No.11.pdf> (click on the "Riders" [+ sign], then click on "Net Energy Metering")
OP: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/OHIOPOW/CURRENTTARIFF/OPCoUBD17.pdf> (click on "NEMS")
TE: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Docket/Tariffs/ELEC/toled/TE-2001PUCO%20No.8.pdf> (click on the "Riders" [+ sign], then click on "Net Energy Metering")

- Interconnection requirements: [http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CMPDFs/JAR2\\$E8LRHLF6S5L.pdf](http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CMPDFs/JAR2$E8LRHLF6S5L.pdf)

See exhibits that are attached to the stipulation, including the pro forma distribution interconnection tariff, technical requirements, screening process, and application form. For further reference, these requirements were approved by the PUCO in Case No. 99-1613-EL-ORD on November 20, 2001. Each utility was ordered to file interconnection tariffs substantially equivalent to the pro forma interconnection tariffs. These filed tariffs may be found in individual case numbers as listed below, and are subject to final Commission approval.

To access the interconnection tariffs for each utility:

- 1) Go directly to the PUCO Docketing web site at : <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us>
- 2) Click on the box marked "DIS."
- 3) Type the utility's case number in the left-hand box marked "Case Number Lookup." See the list below for case numbers.
- 4) Click on "search."

CG&E: Case No. 00-1253-EL-ATA

CEI: 00-1259-EL-ATA

CSP: 00-1248-EL-ATA

DPL: 00-1256-EL-ATA

MP: 00-1337-EL-ATA

OE: 00-1258-EL-ATA

OP: 001247-EL-ATA

TE: 001257-EL-ATA

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