



Generating Your Own Electricity: Net Metering

Interested in producing your own electricity? Let us provide you with general information to assist you in making an informed decision.

If you are an electric utility customer and are interested in generating your own electricity from renewable sources Ohio law allows you to do so if you meet the following criteria:

- The generating equipment for producing electricity must be intended primarily to offset part or all of the your own electricity requirements;
- Acceptable generation include solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, hydropower, microturbines, and fuel cells;
- Such generating equipment must also be located on a your own premises; and
- Must be connected in parallel to the electric utility's system.

What is net metering?

Net metering is a billing arrangement where customers who produce their own electricity can receive a credit on their electric utility bills for any extra electricity produced by the customer that flows back onto the electric utility's distribution system.

Generating your own electricity may reduce your electric bill in two ways:

- The electricity you produce displaces electricity you would otherwise have purchased from the electric utility (or from a competitive supplier); and
- Your electricity bill is lowered by the amount of electricity your generating system may feed back onto the electric utility' system.

How does net metering work?

If you want a net metering billing arrangement, your generating equipment must be connected to the local electric utility's distribution system. Whenever your generating equipment produces more electricity than you need, the extra electricity flows backward through the utility meter on your property making it turn in reverse. This reverse metering may result in a lower monthly meter reading by the electric utility, thus lowering your electric bill.

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

In that case, the monthly meter reading will be lower than the last meter reading and a credit will be noted on your electric utility bill.

What happens to that credit?

The credit can be used to offset charges in future months. As a net metering customer, you may also request in writing a refund that amounts to an annual “true-up” of accumulated credits over a 12 month period.

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

The net metering credit is limited to kilowatt-hour (kWh) charges only. Net metering customers are not reimbursed for distribution or transmission services. If you have a demand (kilowatt) meter these charges also will not be reimbursed.

What if I choose a competitive electric supplier?

You will need to sign a net metering contract with your competitive retail electric supplier.

How do I get started?

Contact your local electric utility and to request an application form for interconnection service for your proposed generating equipment. You must complete an application form for your electric utility to review and approve BEFORE you attempt to connect to their system.

The interconnection review process varies based on the amount of electricity you intend to produce and the location of your equipment on the electric utility’s system. Currently, there is a “simplified” and a “standard” review process. Below are two links that may assist you in determining which review process you will be required to follow:

- The Interconnection Request Screening Process (how an electric utility can determine if a customer's application is eligible for a "simplified" or a standard interconnection review) http://www.puco.ohio.gov/emplibrary/Distributed_Generation_Screening_Process.pdf
- Technical Requirements: Single Phase equal to or less than 25kW; Three Phase less than or equal to 300 kW http://www.puco.ohio.gov/emplibrary/files/smed/Technical_Requirements.pdf

Contacts for the electric companies

- AEP Ohio (Columbus Southern Power Company and Ohio Power Company)
Larry C. Hutchison
Customer Services
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215
phone (614) 716-1377 fax (614) 716-1414
E-mail: lhutchison@aep.com
AEP’s hourly rate for Level 1 Interconnection Review = \$---.-- , meaning 1/10th of an hour is \$-.-. (No data received from AEP as of Sept. 30, 2008.)
- Dayton Power & Light
Business Call Center
P.O. Box 1247
Dayton, Ohio 45401-1247
phone (800) 253-5801

Updated March 29, 2011

Email: interconnection@dplinc.com

DP&L's hourly rate for Level 1 Interconnection Review = \$66.25, meaning 1/10th of an hour is \$6.63.

- Duke Energy Ohio

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Duke Energy's hourly rate for Level 1 Interconnection Review = \$ -0-, meaning 1/10th of an hour is \$ -0-.

- First Energy (Cleveland Electric & Illuminating, Ohio Edison and Toledo Edison)

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FirstEnergy's hourly rate for Level 1 Interconnection Review = \$---.---, meaning 1/10th of an hour is \$-.-. (No data received from FirstEnergy as of Sept. 30, 2008.)

Municipal and Rural Electric Cooperative Customers

To contact your local utility for the process governing interconnection of your project, please call the phone number listed on your most recent electric bill.

If you would like to know more about the PUCO or have utility-related questions or concerns,

contact the PUCO at:

(800) 686-PUCO (7826)

(800) 686-1570 (TDD/TTY)

In Columbus only:

(614) 466-3292

(614) 466-8180 (TDD/TTY)

www.PUCO.ohio.gov

Updated March 29, 2011