

Net Metering-Distributed Generation 100kW or less “Net –Metering and Easy Connect Act”

If you are interested in applying for interconnection to Central Missouri Electric Cooperative’s electrical system, you should first contact the Cooperative and ask for information related to the interconnection of a parallel distributed generation unit (i.e. hydrogen fuel cell; or generating system powered by the sun, wind, or biomass) to the Cooperative’s system. It is important that you understand this information before proceeding with the project. (**Any consumer who connects in parallel phase and synchronization with any retail electric supplier without written approval can be immediately and without notice disconnected with electric service.*)

Missouri’s Net Metering Rules and Regulations are based on new legislation that took effect January 1, 2008. The “Net-Metering and Easy Connect Act” states that the distributed generation is intended to primarily offset part or all of the customer-generator’s own electrical energy requirements. Full retail price is credited for all energy put on the grid up to the amount purchased that month from the utility. For example, all kilowatt hours put onto the grid by the consumer will be subtracted from the total amount purchased that month from the Cooperative. The customer will pay only the “net” difference as calculated by using the applicable standard rate. Avoided cost is credited for all energy put on the grid in excess of that month’s purchase. This amount above what is purchased can remain as a credit on the customer’s bill for up to a maximum of 1 year. That month’s credit will expire if not used within 1 year or at the time of disconnect. All standard service availability fees still apply.

Avoided cost is calculated monthly by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), the Cooperative’s power supplier. This cost is the actual cost of generating a kWh of electricity that month using all the sources of generation used that month by AECI.

The Cooperative strongly suggests that a customer-generator considers liability insurance. If there was a malfunction, the customer-generator would likely be named in a lawsuit as a channel to get to the manufacturer. The new law clearly states that the retail electric supplier shall have no liability absent of clear and convincing evidence of their fault.

As a protection for the Missouri customer-generator, any seller, installer, and/or manufacturer who misrepresent any electric generation unit's safety or performance standards may be investigated by the state attorney general upon report.

All of the electricity generated by the distributed generation unit will first be used at the member-generator's site. Any excess electrical power will go back on the grid and be recorded with the use of a special meter located in the member-generator's regular house meter base. The cost of this meter will be paid by the member-generator.

For a member who is assuming ownership or operational control of an existing member-generator system, an Application and Agreement For Interconnection and Net Metering of Systems With Capacity of 100kW or Less needs to be acquired with completed sections A, B, C, D, F, G, and H. The Cooperative has 15 days to approve or reject the new agreement.

Note: This is a general overview of the process for interconnecting for net metering. Please contact the Cooperative for complete details.

The member-generator is requested, at least once every year, to conduct a test to confirm that the net metering unit automatically ceases to energize the output (interconnection equipment output voltage goes to zero) within 2 seconds of being disconnected from the retail electric power supplier's system. The member-generator should maintain a record of these tests and, upon request, shall provide a copy of the test results to the retail electric supplier.

(*SENATE BILL NO. 54 386.890 Net Metering and Easy Connect Act)