



Customers interested in reducing their energy usage and their carbon footprint are turning their attention to renewable power generation technologies such as solar or wind for their home or business, otherwise known as Distributed Generation. Could distributed generation be right for you? We've prepared answers to some of the most frequently asked questions to help you decide.

### **What are the potential benefits of distributed generation?**

- Distributed generation systems may help customers lower their bills.
- Because they produce power locally for users, these technologies help reduce demand during peak times and minimize congestion of power on the utility network.
- Help protect the environment by reducing emissions.

### **If I install a solar or wind system, will I be completely disconnected from National Grid's electricity system?**

No. Solar and wind systems operate only intermittently so there will still be a need to be interconnected to the utility distribution system. We will continue to maintain and operate our distribution system 24/7.

### **What do I need to know before installing renewable power generation equipment?**

While your project is still in the planning stage, and before purchasing equipment, please email us at [DistributedGenerationServices-NY@NationalGrid.com](mailto:DistributedGenerationServices-NY@NationalGrid.com) or visit us at [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com). Once you are ready to proceed, a completed application package must be submitted to National Grid, who will review the application and advise you of your obligations to interconnect to National Grid's distribution electric power system (EPS) in accordance with the New York Standardized Interconnection Requirements (NYSIR). It is important that you notify the utility ahead of the installation so that the utility can ensure your distributed generation system is interconnected without adversely affecting the safety, reliability and power quality of the distribution system that serves you and your neighbors.

### **What is Net Metering?**

In short, customers that qualify for net metering have a different meter installed at their residence or facility that is able to register the energy produced by the generating system and credit it against the energy used at that location. To the extent more energy is generated than consumed, the customer receives a credit on their bill.

### **What is a Net Meter?**

For qualifying systems, National Grid will install a net meter capable of registering both energy generated and energy consumed. When more energy is generated than consumed, the meter essentially spins backwards. National Grid will continue to read your meter on your normal monthly scheduled reading date. If the reading is less than the month before, you will have a credit on your bill. If the reading is higher than the month before you will be billed accordingly. Note, even though you may be billed for energy, you are being billed only for your net energy that is energy generated less energy used.



### **Where can I find information on Net Metering:**

Below are the links to the National Grid Net Metering website

[https://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energyeff/4\\_net-mtrg.asp](https://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energyeff/4_net-mtrg.asp)

[https://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energyeff/3\\_distributed.asp](https://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energyeff/3_distributed.asp)

### **What is the process for getting net metering installed and working?**

The process is initiated by a customer submitting an interconnection application, "Form K", to National Grid's Distributed Generation Group (DG). Upon receipt of the interconnection application, DG will notify you within 10 business days whether or not your system can be installed as presented or whether further review is required. If no further review is required, DG will provide you with Conditional Approval and your solar array can be installed. Once installed, you or your contractor will supply DG with the Certification Approval letter. Once the DG group receives that letter, DG has 5 business days to issue the Final Acceptance letter. At that time, an order will be placed to have a net meter installed within 10 business days. Once the net meter is installed at your property, your array can be turned on by you or your contractor. Until the net meter is installed, the solar array must remain off. For more detailed information, please email DG at [DistributedGenerationServices-NY@NationalGrid.com](mailto:DistributedGenerationServices-NY@NationalGrid.com).

### **Can I turn my generating equipment on before my net meter is installed?**

No, your system should be left off until you know the net meter has been installed.

### **When will I get my net meter installed?**

After DG has reviewed and approved all the necessary completion documentation provided by the customer, a final acceptance letter will be sent to the customer and at the same time, the net meter will be scheduled for installation. Over 90% of net meters are installed within 10 business days of the letter being sent.

### **Do I need to be home when the meter is installed?**

As long as your electric meter is located on the outside of the house you do not need to be home.

### **How will I know if my net meter is installed?**

If you are not home at the time the meter is installed, you will notice that power was interrupted (flashing clocks/ microwave, etc.) Go out to where the meter is located on the house and inside glass portion of the meter it will read "Net Meter." Your generation system is now ready to be turned on. The power that is produced by your system will first be used by any load in your home. The house will use what it will need and any excess will be pushed back through the National Grid net meter onto the distribution system.



### **What happens if I need more power than my system is producing?**

Your home is constantly pushing and pulling power through the National Grid meter. You will pull power from the National Grid system when there is more load (usage) than generation. National Grid's system is always connected to your home or business and will ensure you have power when your system is not producing.

### **What happens when there is a power outage? Will I still have power?**

No if power is lost your solar inverters shut down until power is restored.

### **How big should I size my generating system?**

The size of the system is really a decision best left for the customer and their installer.. However, NG recommends customers first pursue energy conservation measures as energy efficiency currently is a more cost effective approach to reducing load than distributed generation. Note once you've installed a system, any subsequent increases in electrical load (e.g. air conditioners, computers, etc) will obviously lessen your anticipated savings.

### **What if I am not eligible for net metering?**

For those customers that are not eligible for net metering, they may still receive credits for their generation as a Qualifying Facility. Please contact us for further information.

### **When will my meter go backwards?**

When you generate more power than you are using, the net meter will go backwards. During these times, you will essentially be exporting power onto National Grid's system as opposed to importing power to service your electrical loads.

### **Can I watch the meter go backwards?**

Yes, on a bright sunny day, (for a solar array, and assuming no snow on the array) customers can view their National Grid meter. After the numbers flash all eights ("8"), the next set of numbers is the usage reading. Write the number down then go inside to your main panel box and shut off all the breakers on the panel box **except the main breaker**, which should be left on. Wait 15 to 20 minutes and then return to meter to review updated usage reading. All usage that your system produced will have gone through the house and out through the meter box (e.g. exported energy). The updated meter reading should be lower than the initial reading, given the absence of electrical load during that test period.

### **How are bills determined?**

Net meters look at the power you use versus the power you generate.

- If you consume more power than your system generated, you will only be billed for the additional power drawn (e.g. imported) from the grid.
- If you generate more power than you consume, the excess power will be credited to your account in kWh. Net excess will roll over monthly. At the end of 12 month period, any excess will be converted to a cash value and credited to the customer's account at SC6 (which is a billing rate) avoided cost rates.



## 1. Example of overproduction on a Residential net meter bill.

### DETAIL OF CURRENT CHARGES

#### Delivery Services

Service Period	No. of days	Current Reading	Previous Reading	Total Usage
Apr 18 - May 13	25	94844 Actual	95285 Actual	-441 kWh
METER NUMBER		NEXT SCHEDULED READ DATE Apr 15		
RATE	Electric SC1 Non Heat			
Cumulative Credit		0 kWh		No carryover credit from previous month
Net Metered		-441 kWh		Usage minus production this month. (-) means customer produced more energy than used
New Cumulative Credit		-441 kWh		Net overproduction, carried over to next bill
Anniversary Month		3		
Basic Service (not including usage)			Anniversary Month	17.00
Tariff Surcharge		3.09278 %		0.53
<b>Total Delivery Services</b>				<b>\$ 17.53</b>

## 2. Example of no overproduction on the Residential net meter but is carrying a cumulative credit from the previous month.

### DETAIL OF CURRENT CHARGES

#### Delivery Services

Service Period	No. of days	Current Reading	Previous Reading	Total Usage
Nov 8 - Dec 11	33	93350 Actual	92439 Actual	911 kWh
METER NUMBER		NEXT SCHEDULED READ DATE May 15		
RATE	Electric SC1 Non Heat			
Cumulative Credit		-2846 kWh		Credit carried over from previous month
Net Metered		911 kWh		Usage minus production this month. (+) means customer used more energy than produced
New Cumulative Credit		-1935 kWh		Net overproduction, carried over to next bill
Anniversary Month		3		
Basic Service (not including usage)			Anniversary Month	17.00
Tariff Surcharge		3.09278 %		0.53
<b>Total Delivery Services</b>				<b>\$ 17.53</b>



3. Example of no overproduction on the current Residential bill while using up all excess credit. Customer is billed for the remaining kWh.

### DETAIL OF CURRENT CHARGES

#### Delivery Services

Service Period	No. of days	Current Reading	Previous Reading	Total Usage
Jan 13 - Feb 11	29	95430 Actual	94455 Actual	975 kWh

METER NUMBER NEXT SCHEDULED READ DATE May 15

RATE Electric SC1 Non Heat

Cumulative Credit	-830 kWh	→ Credit from previous bill
Net Metered	975 kWh	→ Usage minus production this month. (+) means customer used more energy than produced
New Cumulative Credit	0 kWh	→ There is no credit to carry forward, customer to be billed 145 kWh this month (975 kWh - 830 kWh)
Anniversary Month	3	→ Anniversary Month
Basic Service (not including usage)		17.00
Delivery	0.04244 x 145 kWh	6.15
Market Settlement	0.00029 x 145 kWh	0.04
Incr State Assessment	0.00307 x 145 kWh	0.45
SBC/RPS	0.007911 x 145 kWh	1.14
Legacy Transition Chrg	-0.006794 x 145 kWh	-0.99
RDM	-0.00110896 x 145 kWh	-0.16
Transmission Rev Adj	0.00007 x 145 kWh	0.01
Tariff Surcharge	3.09278 %	0.73
<b>Total Delivery Services</b>		<b>\$ 24.37</b>

#### Supply Services

SUPPLIER National Grid

Electricity Supply	0.11932 x 145 kWh	17.30
Merchant Function	0.00391241 x 145 kWh	0.57
ESRM	-0.049946 x 145 kWh	-7.24
Tariff Surcharge	1.0101 %	0.11
<b>Total Supply Services</b>		<b>\$ 10.74</b>



### **What determines the Anniversary Month?**

National Grid has chosen the most beneficial month for the solar customers, which would be either March or April. It can be found on the second page of your National Grid bill under “Anniversary Month.” The number located on that page will correspond to the calendar month (ex. November = 11).

### **What happens on the Anniversary Month?**

The meter is read and then billed. Any excess kWh are pulled off of the account and converted to a dollar amount at the SC6 avoided cost rate (wholesale market rate). Within 30 to 60 business days this amount is applied to your account as a general dollar credit on the second or third page of your bill.

### **Can I change my Anniversary Month on my Residential Net Metering Account?**

Yes you are able to change your anniversary date one time only.

### **Why change the Anniversary Month?**

- Net Meter Credits are applied to a customer’s bill at retail rates. However, when credits are cashed out on the Anniversary Month, the dollar amount is applied to the bill at the wholesale rate. It would be most beneficial for a customer to use as many kWh credits as possible at retail rates, than to cash out on their Anniversary Month at wholesale rates.
- Setting the Anniversary Month prior to when consumption begins to ramp-up for the year will typically allow for the greatest use of Net Meter Credits.

### **How do I change the Anniversary Month?**

To change an Anniversary Month, email the following information to the National Grid Distributed Generation group by clicking on below email address [AnnivMonthChanges@nationalgrid.com](mailto:AnnivMonthChanges@nationalgrid.com) .

- Account number
- Current Anniversary Month
- New Desired Anniversary Month

### **Other Billing Questions?**

Please email [UNYNetMetering@Nationalgrid.com](mailto:UNYNetMetering@Nationalgrid.com) or call 1-800-664-6729