

# Frequently Asked Solar Questions



## **Does RECC allow solar generation to be interconnected to their power system?**

RECC does allow the safe interconnection of renewable energy to their power system.

## **What size solar system is allowed?**

RECC will allow any size renewable energy system to be safely interconnected to our system. However, there are different requirements and policies for systems above 10kW.

## **What does the term 'net metering' mean?**

Net metering is the policy of allowing a member's generated kilowatt hours to be used at another time, effectively cancelling out kilowatt hours that would normally have to be purchased from RECC at a time when the generation system is not producing power.

## **Does RECC have a net metering policy?**

RECC has a quarterly net metering policy for renewable systems under 10 kW (solar dc). This size system would produce enough energy to cover most residential home services. The kWh's can be banked for up to three months before being reset at the end of the calendar quarter.

## **Does RECC calculate payback of renewable energy and renewable energy credits (RECs)?**

RECC does not calculate the payback of renewable energy systems. We advise our members to speak with several installers and thoroughly understand all assumptions being made.

## **What costs are involved interconnecting a 10 kW, or smaller, renewable energy system?**

To help recover a portion of the costs incurred by the cooperative, \$500 must be paid when submitting interconnection application. There are no additional fees for systems under 10 kW.

## **Does RECC charge a member with renewable energy any extra monthly fees?**

There are no extra fees that are charged to a member who has a renewable energy system installed. A member may lose certain discounts afforded to them, depending on their billing rate or for the size or type of load they have had prior to the system being connected. Members will continue to receive a minimum bill or a 'facility charge'. This charge accounts for the cost of maintaining the power lines and systems up to your home and does not include the cost of energy used.

### **Could my billing rate change?**

Your billing rate is designated to your account depending on the type and amount of energy you use as well as any incentive discount rates you may be receiving. A renewable energy system could change the billing rate designation for your account. Net metering accounts are ineligible for special Grain Drying and Dual Meter rates. Please check with our staff prior to committing to a renewable energy project.

### **Does RECC require the member to have insurance on the renewable energy system?**

RECC requires a one-million-dollar liability policy to be kept on the renewable energy system for the longevity of the installation. RECC requires notification of any changes or cancellations to the insurance policy as well as yearly renewals in order to have the most accurate and up to date information on file. This policy protects service employees and the power grid to which the member connects his or her renewable energy system.

### **Does RECC require a contract to be signed?**

RECC requires an agreement to be signed for interconnection and net metering. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, keeping insurance on the system, compliance with laws, rules, and regulations, and ensuring that the system will operate properly in case of an outage.

### **Does the system act like a back-up generator when RECC's power goes off?**

In the case of a power outage, RECC requires that the renewable energy equipment be automatically disconnected from the power grid. This prevents back-feeding electricity into de-energized power lines and ensures the safety of our linemen. The shut-down is an important feature to prevent injuries, even death, to those working around deenergized lines.

### **When should I contact RECC about my plans for adding solar energy to my house/business?**

RECC should be contacted at the earliest stage. We recommend submitting application and documents about two weeks before any work begins. Your qualifying project will be approved within 2 weeks. After installation is complete, your system will be inspected within 3 weeks.

### **Are there any rebates offered through RECC for a renewable energy system?**

RECC does not currently offer any rebates for renewable energy systems.

### **Are inspections required?**

RECC will do a final inspection to ensure that all laws, rules, and regulations are followed.

### **Can you provide a list of requirements that RECC will need before inspecting our system?**

Members must complete application, pay \$500, sign interconnection and net metering agreements, provide proof of \$1,000,000 insurance, and submit a signed authorization form.

### **What if I need to make changes/alterations to my system?**

If there are any changes or alterations to your service, this will need to be done with the help of one of our Engineering Technicians prior to the installation of the renewable energy system.

### **Who do I contact with further questions?**

Please email any inquires to [recc.coop](mailto:recc.coop) or call our office at (217) 438-6197.