



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF OKANOGAN COUNTY

Customer Information Packet on Net Metering

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PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF OKANOGAN COUNTY

Dear Okanogan County PUD Customer:

Net Metering?

Thank you for your interest in Net Metering. In accordance with RCW 80.60, Net Metering is available to customers who are interested in generating their own electricity and want to be connected to Okanogan County PUD's electrical system. Net metering only applies to the following generating systems of 100 kilowatts (kW) output or less that use one of the following technologies:

1. Solar systems
2. Wind systems
3. Hydro systems
4. Fuel cells
5. Biogas from animal waste

Okanogan County PUD Contacts

Please work with a Customer Service Engineer at any of our PUD offices to assist you with your net metering installation.

Local Permitting Agency

Apply for appropriate electrical permits from your Electrical Division, Department of Labor and Industries.

Qualified Systems

Customers may choose to purchase a qualifying system from a contractor of their choice.



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NET METERING

Okanogan County PUD offers Net Metering to customers who wish to generate their own electricity with fuel cells or solar, wind, hydro, or biogas powered electric systems of 100 kilowatt or less in generating capacity. Once Okanogan County PUD reviews and approves a customer-owned electric generation system, net metering allows a customer to be connected to the utility's distribution system. Any excess electricity generated by a customer can be credited to the customer's next bill at the same rate they are charged for electricity.

WHAT IS NET METERING?

- For customers who generate their own electricity using small-scale energy systems, net metering measures the difference between the electricity you buy from Okanogan County PUD and the excess electricity you produce using your own generating equipment.
- Your electric meter keeps track of this "net" difference as you generate excess electricity and take electricity from the electric grid.

HOW EXACTLY DOES NET METERING WORK?

- Basically, net metering is a special metering and billing arrangement between you and Okanogan County PUD.
- Normally, your electric meter runs "forward" as it measures the amount of electricity that the PUD sends into your home or business.
- If your generation system makes more electricity than you need at any given time, net metering allows this electricity to run "backward" through the meter and out into the electric grid. This causes the meter to run in reverse, which means you get full retail value for the electricity you generate.
- Net metering can usually be accomplished using the existing meter on your home or business. In some cases, the PUD or the customer may choose to install an additional meter to separately measure the output of your generating system. If this is the case, the electricity generated will be subtracted from the electricity consumed by the customer to determine the net consumption or net excess generation (NEG).

HOW WILL I BE BILLED?

- Just as we do now, we will continue to read your meter and you will receive electric bills on your normal billing schedule.
- If you use more energy than you generate in a given billing cycle, you would be a “net consumer,” and the net consumption would appear as a charge on the current bill.
- If your meter ran backward more than forward in a given billing cycle, you would be a “net generator” for that billing cycle, and the NEG would appear as a credit on your next bill.
- In all cases, a monthly minimum customer charge will be applied. This is the same charge that applies to all customers, regardless of whether or not they are net metering customers.
- Per RCW 80.60.030, on March 31st of each calendar year, any remaining unused credits accumulated during the previous year shall be granted to the PUD, without compensation.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF NET METERING?

- By generating your own electricity, you reduce your electricity bills.
- With a net metering arrangement, any excess electricity that you generate and do not use can be fed back to the utility, which will again reduce your electricity bill. Your excess electricity now offsets electricity you would otherwise have to buy at full retail prices, and this makes owning your own generating system more cost-effective.
- Without net metering, one alternative would be to purchase batteries to store the excess power for later use. Having your own battery storage for electricity is very expensive, and would typically only benefit you during a period when the District’s power is off for some reason. We suggest serious consideration be given to this cost/benefit issue before choosing to install a battery back-up system.
- Another alternative to net metering is to arrange for metering and sale of the electricity you generate as a “qualifying facility” under PURPA rules. Typically, this type of installation is more expensive, since separate metering equipment is required. In addition, all electricity you generate would be credited at the District’s “avoided cost,” which is usually less than half the retail rate. Net metering allows you to get credit for most of the energy you generate at the retail rate.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR NET METERING?

- In Washington, any electricity customer who generates at least some of their electricity is potentially eligible for net metering.
- *Solar, wind, hydro, biogas, fuel cell*, or some combination of these resources must power your generating system. Other types of generating systems are not eligible for net metering.
- The generating system has a capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts.

WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS?

- A net metering system used by a home owner or business must include, at the customer’s own expense, all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the National Electrical Code (NEC), National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), the Institute of Electrical and

Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and any applicable state and local agencies.

- The applicable Okanogan County PUD Interconnection Standards are provided in this packet as Attachment C and Attachment F.
- **Okanogan County PUD must approve your system before you connect to the electric grid.**