



NORTH WEST REC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Interconnection and Net Metering Available to Members

North West REC (NWREC) is pleased to work with our members who are considering the installation of solar panels, a wind turbine or any other renewable energy system. We offer net metering on renewable distributed generation systems that meet our guidelines, are sized according to the member's electric load, and up to 50 kW in size. We want to remind you that we believe the key issues are safety, reliability and integrity of the power grid that serves your fellow members.

Here are a few keys pieces of information that we want you to be aware of as you consider renewable energy options:

Iowa law states that members must provide written notification to the cooperative at least 30 days before construction or installation of a renewable energy system.

An electrical permit and inspection are also required prior to installation. If you have interconnected a renewable energy system to NWREC's system after June 1, 2010 and you have not had it inspected, please contact NWREC as soon as possible.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS . . .

Does NWREC allow members to interconnect a renewable energy system?

Yes. We will interconnect with all qualifying renewable energy systems if members have signed an interconnection agreement with NWREC and meet our interconnection requirements.

Does NWREC offer net metering?

Yes. Net metering is offered on qualifying renewable energy systems up to 50 kW in size. However, the renewable energy system needs to be sized according to the member's electric load which is defined as the average monthly peak kW demand. Example – if the member has a monthly peak demand average of 20 kW, the renewable energy system would need to be no larger than 20 kW. It's also important to note that the renewable energy system must be owned by the member in order to qualify for our net metering program.

Note – the individual availability is subject to an overall cap on the Cooperative's system of 500 kW of nameplate capacity. (That is based on alternating current (AC) rated capacity.)

How does the net metering program work?

There is a single meter installation that measures the kWh's that the member purchases from NWREC and the kWh's sold to NWREC. The netting takes place in the NWREC billing system. To the extent there would be more kWh's sold to NWREC than purchased in a given month, the excess kWh's would be credited to the member-consumer's account. If there are any credit kWh's on the member-consumer's account at the end of the year, NWREC's power suppliers will purchase the kWh's at a rate that is included in their renewable energy policies.

Will members who participate in the Switch Makes Cents electric heat rate program be able to remain on that program if they install a renewable energy system?

No. Only member-consumers who purchase all of their electric energy requirements from the Cooperative are eligible to participate in the Switch Makes Cents electric heat rate program. In most cases, the Cooperative has provided a rebate on the electric heat installation with the understanding that the member would purchase all of their electric energy requirements from the Cooperative. The Cooperative also has made a significant investment in plant including transformer, metering, load management switches, etc., to provide the necessary electric requirements for the member. New rebates under our energy efficiency rebate program would not be available to members who have installed a distributed generation system.

Why is there a size limitation on net metering?

While NWREC is supportive of renewable energy and is willing to work with members who want to install this type of system, there is a cost subsidy by our other members and we believe it is important to limit the amount of this subsidy. The subsidy results from the member receiving the full retail rate benefit on the electricity that is generated while not paying the full cost of service for the ability to still use the Cooperative's electric system and our power suppliers' grid. We will consider interconnection of larger renewable energy systems up to 150 KW but rather than net metering, it would be under a purchase power agreement with our power suppliers under their renewable purchase program.

Because of the subsidy involved with offering net metering, we have established a maximum amount of net metering that can be interconnected to our system of 500 kW.

How can I get more information about renewable energy?

There are a number of excellent online resources including the Iowa Energy Center. North West REC has installed a solar array at our Orange City office and we would be happy to share the data that we are capturing. You can contact our office at (800) 766-2099. We also have some information such as our interconnection agreement, on our website at www.nwrec.com

RESOURCES:

There are a number of on-line resources about solar and distributed generation including the Iowa Energy Center www.iowaenergycenter.org