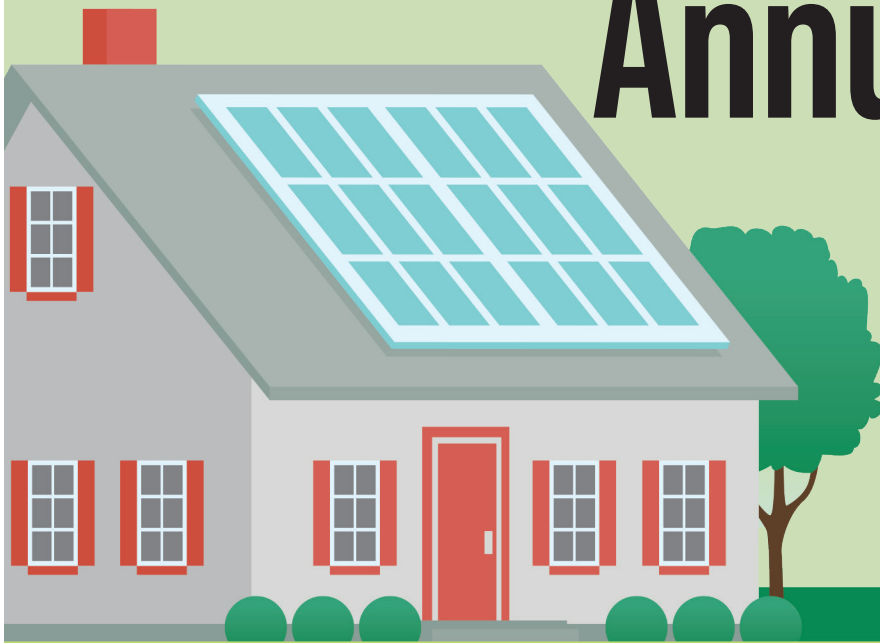


KPUD's Net Metering Annual review



KPUD's net metering program allows customers who produce their own power, typically via solar panels, the option to buy power from the utility when their generating systems do not cover their total electricity need.

In some cases, depending on the size of the generating system and how the occupants use electricity, more power may be produced than used. Every home's meter tracks how much energy comes in from the grid. When a solar panel or other generating system produces more power than needed, the power flows back through the meter. Tracking how much power flows which way through the meter is called net metering.

Customers will always use electricity

from their renewable energy systems first. Every kWh generated on-site is one not bought from the utility, resulting in less energy being supplied by the utility. Any additional kWh supplied by the customer beyond their homes need is then captured as a banked kWh credit.

What are banked kWh credits?

A banked kWh credit is the amount of power a customer produced above their energy use needs in a billing period. This credit is added to the net meter bank and can reduce billable consumption in future billing periods.

Most customers accumulate kWh credits in the summer and begin using available credit in the fall and winter.

Net meter accounts are subject to basic monthly fees and other fees a customer may have based on their rate schedule, as those are always billed.

KPUD meter readers take annual reads

Many of KPUD's net meter customers are rural and are considered self-read customers who supply the monthly meter reads to the utility for billing. Each year, as time and weather allow, KPUD meter readers visit the self-read net meters to collect current reads for the annual audit and true-up.

To ease the collection of these reads, meters need to be accessible, with clear visibility to the front of the meter. They must be where meter readers have easy,

HOW NET METERING WORKS

Net metering is a billing mechanism that offsets consumers who own private solar panels (or other renewable energy systems) for any excess power that is sent back to the electric grid.



1 A renewable energy system, in this case privately owned solar panels, converts energy from sunlight into electricity.



2 An inverter, which is connected to the electric grid, converts the electricity from direct current to alternating current to make it safe for use in homes.



3 The electricity is used to power the home. (It should be noted that solar panels do not provide electricity during a power outage.)



4 If the solar panels produce more electricity than the home needs, the consumer's power consumption from KPUD is then offset by that excess electricity that was produced

safe access and not fenced off or enclosed. If KPUD cannot access a customer's meter, the customer should contact KPUD to discuss a resolution.

How are kWh credits applied?

If a customer has zero or negative kWh use at the end of a billing period, they are not billed energy charges. The kWh use amount is added to the associated net meter's bank as a kWh credit for future use.

If the customer has positive kWh use on their bill at any point later in the net metering year, when more power is consumed than the system has generated, the banked kWh credits are applied. If the customer does not have enough banked credits to cover the total kWh usage in a billing period, the customer is billed for the remaining energy charges. The value of kWh credits depends on the customer's retail power rate class.

What if I generate more than I consume during the net meter year?

Per Washington state law, any remaining banked kWh credits accumulated in the previous net meter year are forfeited March 31.

For more information about net metering with Klickitat PUD, please contact the energy services department at 509-773-7622 or visit www.klickitatpud.com/conservation/netmetering. ■

HOW DO SOLAR PANELS WORK?

