

Understanding Net Metering

Are you confused about net metering and how it works?

You are not alone.

Washington state law entitles all utility customers the right to offset their electrical usage with their own generating source, which comes from solar, wind, fuel cells or hydropower, up to a 25-kilowatt maximum.

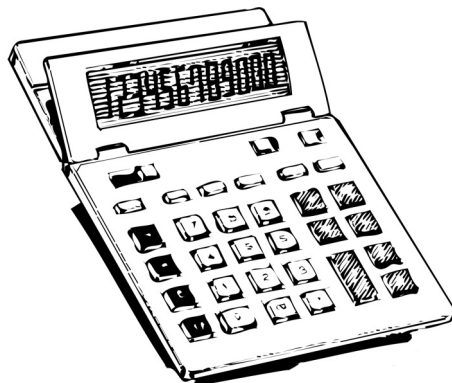
The key word is "offset." The customer-generator will receive a kilowatt-hour (kwh) credit up to the total amount of electricity provided by the utility in a year.

With net metering, the kilowatts you generate are used first to meet electrical requirements in your home. If more power is generated than the home needs, the excess electricity is fed back to KPUD's grid.

The electricity is credited to the customer's account at the same retail rate we charge.

Net metering allows customers to receive full value for their excess generation without the added expense of purchasing and maintaining a battery storage system.

At no charge, KPUD will install bi-directional metering equipment. The meter will record both the flow of power from KPUD to the customer, and any power flow from



the customer's generator to the grid.

This is where the billing issue may get confusing. KPUD issues a credit the month after you have produced power that has run back to the grid. You will only get a credit up to the amount of power you received that month.

As an example, if you produced 150 kwh of excess power that ran back into the grid and KPUD provided 140 kwh to you the same month, you will only get a credit of 140 kwh worth on the next bill.

The 10 kwh difference will be banked until the "true-up" period, which is usually in April or May. At the true-up period, our billing department will look at the total amount of kwh the utility provided to you during that year, what you

have banked and how much credit you have already received. If the sum of the credit you have received that year and the banked credit does not exceed the amount the utility provided to you, you will get all your banked kwh as a credit. If the sum of the credit you have received and the banked credit exceeds the amount the utility provided to you, any exceeding amount is granted back to the utility.

Net metering benefits both the customer and KPUD. The positive effects of having customers who put in renewable generation include helping the environment and avoiding the cost of additional power generation.

An additional benefit is customers can reduce the amount of electricity needed from the utility at peak hours, which can save the utility on its power bill.

KPUD, a small rural utility, holds its own with the likes of Seattle City Light and other large regional utilities in the number of net metering accounts.

Klickitat PUD commends its customers for their positive attitude toward renewable generation and their cooperation to continue our reputation as a small, but progressive, utility. ■



KPUD Salutes America Celebrate Independence Day!

July 4