

Customer-Generation FAQ's

What Is Net Energy Metering?

"Net energy metering" refers to an interconnected customer generation facility with a meter that reads the "net" difference between the customer's electricity generation and consumption. Utility bi-directional meters are able to read in both directions according to whether power is being consumed or generated back towards the Utility.

How does KPUD's credit for net energy work?

KPUD currently provides a received generation credit of 1:1 to offset the energy component (kilowatt-hours) of consumed power as calculated by the associated rate schedule assigned.

Are there incentives available?

Possibly, there are or have historically been supplemental incentives available. These can include:

Federal Tax Incentives – 26% federal income tax credit for the cost of solar technology installations prior to December 31, 2020 with the percentage declining in 2021 to 22% until the ending time of December 31, 2021. Contact the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for further information.

Washington State Sales Tax Exemption – Solar electric systems may qualify for tax exemptions. Contact your installer, your tax professional or the WA Department of Revenue to find out program expiration dates and complete an Application for Sales Tax Refund on Purchases & Installation of Qualified Renewable Energy Equipment.

Washington State Incentives - Currently Washington State Production Incentives have expired. The program met its prescribed funding limitations. If additional funds become available WSU Energy will notify KPUD and it will be published on our website. To inquire further you may contact Washington State University Energy Program at:

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/RenewableEnergySystemIncentiveProgram.aspx>

Email: solarprogram@energy.wsu.edu Phone: 360-956-2200 or 888-363-7289

What happens when my solar panels generate more electricity than I use during daylight hours?

Most grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) solar systems today have no way of storing the electricity generated by their rooftop solar energy systems to use later. That means when your solar panels produce electricity, it goes first to powering the heating source, lights, appliances and electronics in your home.

If your generating facility produces less electricity than you need or if you need energy when the sun isn't brightly shining, that power is automatically supplied from the utility grid.

If your generating facility produces more electricity than you need, the extra electricity gets delivered back to the utility grid to offset your consumption within the mandates set forth.

How do I power my home when the sun isn't shining?

As a KPUD customer you will use electricity supplied by KPUD from the grid when the generating facility is not generating enough to power the home's needs.

What is solar electricity?

Solar electricity is produced when sunlight reacts directly with semiconductor materials in solar electric cells, a process that frees electrons and creates an electrical current. Electricity is produced whenever the sun is shining, but more is produced when sunlight is intense (like on a clear sunny day) and direct (when the sun's rays are perpendicular to the solar cells).

What equipment is needed for solar?

A solar electric system consists of basic components for generating and delivering electricity to the home or business. There are two fundamental types of solar electric systems: independent, or "off grid" systems, and interconnected, or "grid-tied" systems. Only grid-tied systems are covered here since most customers will choose to generate electricity in parallel with KPUD's distribution system. These grid-tied systems are referred to as "net energy metered" systems

How much does a solar electric system cost?

Cost depends on a number of factors, but for conventional systems mounted on a sloped roof, cost is fairly proportional to size ranging from \$2 – 5 per watt of capacity installed. Thus, a typical 7,000 watt or 7 kilowatt (kW) system would cost \$14,000 – \$35,000 installed. Other cost factors relate to design complexity, system configuration, equipment options, and contractor expertise. Systems that integrate solar cells into roofing or glazing materials or require special equipment to install cost more. Local solar contractors can provide you with estimates.

Do I have a good site for solar?

To get To get the most benefit from a system, a well-designed solar electric system has clear and unobstructed access to the sun for most of the day, throughout the year. You can make an initial assessment yourself, and if the site looks promising, your solar contractor has the tools to trace the sun's path at your site and offer a more complete assessment.

Is your site free from shade by trees, roof lines, nearby buildings, or other obstructions in the surrounds landscape? Remember that an area that is unshaded during one part of the day may be shaded during another. Even small objects, e.g. a utility or flagpole, can result in significant shade losses. As little as 10 percent of shade on a module can reduce output by as much as 80 percent.

If a rooftop can't be used, solar modules can also be mounted on a separate structure, pole or the ground, either on a fixed or "tracking" mount that follows the sun to orient the modules for maximum performance.

Who sells and installs solar electric systems?

In some locations, finding a solar contractor can be as simple as quick internet search and phone call. It is in your best interest to review multiple contractors. Do your due-diligence making sure they are a reputable professional and have expertise in solar electricity or mounting techniques. Trust your instincts and ask for references.

What permits are required?

Klickitat PUD customers will need an electrical permit from the Washington State Labor & Industries to meet Klickitat PUD's requirements for net energy metering. You may also need a County/City building or land use permit depending on the size and complexity of the installation.

If you live in a community in which a homeowners association requires approval for customer-generation installations, you or your solar contractor may need to submit additional plans.

Typically, your solar contractor will take care of all required permits and include the cost into the overall system price. However, in some cases, your solar contractor may not know how much time or money will be involved in obtaining required permits. If so, this task may be priced on a time-and-materials basis, particularly if additional drawings or calculations must be provided to the permitting agency. In any case, make sure the permitting costs and responsibilities are addressed at the start with your solar contractor.

What happens when property sells?

As the property seller, you will be eligible to receive the incentive payment for the portion of the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) that you own the property if the program is still in effect. When you sell the property, please be sure to contact KPUD Energy Services to update any required documentation.

As the property buyer, you will need to contact KPUD to apply for continuing the operation of the generating facility and to transfer the certification of the renewable energy system into your name if the system qualifies for State incentives.

Out/In reads, a read will need to be captured from the production meter if the system qualifies for State incentives

What happens when the power goes out?

Unless you have a battery or generator as a back p system you will not have power to your home. Your system is designed to provide safety mechanism against feedback to utility lines in case of an outage.