

Net Metering

What you need to know - Distributed Generation 100kW or less

If you are interested in applying for interconnection with Three Rivers Electric Cooperative's electrical system, you should first contact the Cooperative to give us your membership account information and make sure you have fully reviewed this information sheet and other helpful tools and resources related to the interconnection of a parallel distributed generation unit (i.e. hydrogen fuel cell; or generating system powered the by sun, wind or biomass) to the Cooperative's system. It is important that you understand this information before proceeding with the project. (*Any consumer who connects in parallel phase and synchronization with any retail electric supplier without written approval can be immediately and without notice disconnected with electric service.)

Missouri's Net Metering Rules and Regulations are based on legislation that took effect January 1, 2008. The "Net-Metering and Easy Connect Act" states that the distributed generation is intended to primarily offset part or all of the customer-generator's own electrical energy requirements. Full retail price is credited to the member for all energy put on the grid up to the amount purchased that month from the Cooperative. For example, all kilowatt hours put onto the grid by the consumer will be subtracted from the total amount purchased that month from the Cooperative. The member will pay only the "net" difference as calculated by using the applicable standard rate. Avoided cost is paid for all energy put on the grid in excess of that month's purchase. This amount above what is purchased can remain as a credit on the member's bill for up to a maximum of 1 year. That month's credit will expire if not used within 1 year or at the time of disconnect. All standard service availability fees still apply. **Therefore, members who are interconnected will continue to receive at least a minimum bill (for the service availability charge) and will not receive a check back from Three Rivers Electric Cooperative for excess generation.**

Avoided cost is calculated monthly by Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI), the Cooperative's power supplier. This cost is the actual cost of generating a kWh of electricity that month using all the sources of generation used that month by AECI. For example, in 2021, this cost of generation averaged about \$.03/kWh/month.

It is no longer a requirement for the member-generator to purchase liability insurance on systems 10kW or less. We do however require insurance for systems larger than that. In fact, the law states that the manufacturer of any electric generation unit may be held liable for any damage to property or person caused by a defect in the generation unit.

The Cooperative still strongly suggests that a member-generator considers liability insurance. If there was a malfunction, the member-generator would likely be named in a lawsuit as a channel to get to the manufacturer. The law clearly states that the retail electric supplier shall have no liability absent of clear and convincing evidence of their fault.

As a protection for the Missouri customer-generator, any seller, installer, and/or manufacturer who misrepresents any electric generation unit's safety or performance standards may be investigated by the state Attorney General upon report.

All of the electricity generated by the distributed generation unit will first be used at the member-generator's site. Any excess electrical power will go back on the grid and be recorded with the use of a special metering system at the member-generator's location. **The cost of this meter will be paid by the member-generator.** An estimated cost of the special electric metering system is available upon request.