

New Net Metering Program at CVEA



As of August 21, 2012, eligible CVEA consumers are now able to participate in a net metering program at CVEA. Net metering will allow an eligible consumer to connect an approved alternative energy generation system to the CVEA grid in order to offset their normal usage and potentially sell back any excess energy to the Cooperative.

Work on the Net Metering Program began in 2009 when member interest in renewable energy alternatives grew in popularity. Since CVEA received many inquiries about the opportunity for small residential wind, solar, and even hydro generation projects, it became clear that CVEA needed to provide an option for members. After much effort, the Net Metering Program was approved by the Board of Directors in July 2012.

With total system safety and reliability in mind, the Net Metering Program was created with strict eligibility, availability, and interconnection standards.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a consumer generation system must produce electric energy derived from one or more renewable resources to include the following:

- Solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy
- Wind energy

- Biomass energy, including landfill gas or biogas produced from organic matter, wastewater, anaerobic digesters, or municipal solid waste
- Hydroelectric energy
- Geothermal energy
- Hydrokinetic energy
- Ocean thermal energy
- Other sources as approved by the Cooperative that generally have similar environmental impact

The system must be operated, and either owned or leased, by a consumer that purchases retail electric utility service from CVEA. It must also be located on the consumer's premises, be used primarily to offset part or all of the consumer requirements for energy, be compatible with the Cooperative's system, and have a total nameplate capacity of no more than 25 kW.

Availability

Participation in the Net Metering Program is available to eligible consumer generation systems as described above; it is also on a first-come, first-served, basis.

There are location specific and overall system limitations that will limit the number of consumers that can participate in the program. Service under this program is available to new participants unless the addition of the new participant would exceed these limitations.

Interconnection may also be prohibited if it is deemed necessary to address system stability constraints or other operational issues.

Interconnection

There are many minimum interconnection requirements outlined in CVEA's Tariff, Section 17, Net Metering; these requirements are to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the consumer-owned alternative generation systems that will be connected to, and operated in parallel with the CVEA system.

Participants in the program will require the addition of all approved interconnection equipment, at the consumer's cost, that among many functions, will block the potential of energy flow to the CVEA grid during system events. Interested members will submit a completed application for interconnection which will be evaluated by CVEA.

For each consumer participating in the Net Metering Program, CVEA will measure the net electric energy during each monthly billing period. Most consumers participating in the Net Metering Program will simply offset their usage. If CVEA con-



tinues to provide more energy than the consumer generates, standard CVEA rates will apply.

For consumers whose monthly usage is less than their monthly generation, their account will be credited with an amount derived by multiplying the kilowatt hours of net electric energy supplied back to the Cooperative by the Nonfirm Power Purchase Rate, or average avoided cost of fuel. This rate is calculated periodically; at least every 12 months to reflect current fuel costs.

For detailed information or questions on the Net Metering Program, contact Steve Bushong, CVEA System Engineer, at 907-835-7004 or email bushong@cvea.org. ■

This article is intended to introduce you to the new CVEA Net Metering Program. It does not contain detailed information of all of the eligibility, availability, and interconnection requirements. All information can be found in the appropriate sections of the CVEA Tariff located at <http://www.cvea.org/resources/pdfs/tariff.pdf>

Renewable Energy Displays at CVEA

The implementation of the new CVEA Net Metering Program will provide an opportunity for CVEA to educate the membership on how to properly install a renewable energy source at their home or business.

CVEA has purchased, and is in the process of installing, two renewable energy generation displays for this purpose. The goal of this project is to demonstrate how each of the systems is installed, and the minimum requirements for interconnecting, per our Net Metering Policy, regarding safety aspects of disconnection and isolation in the event of a system outage.

In Glennallen a 2.7 kW tracking solar array has been installed near the CVEA office building at Mile 187 of the Glenn Highway. The tracking array consists of 12 LG 225 watt solar panels mounted on a tracking system which follows the sun throughout the day providing a higher efficiency than a fixed array.

For those interested in wind generation, a 2.4 kW Skystream wind turbine is soon to be installed at the CVEA office building on Fairbanks Street in Valdez. The turbine will be mounted on a 70 foot monopole tower. The unit is rated for marine environments and winds greater than 100 mph.

In addition to providing installation information, CVEA will be able to provide our members information on capital and installation costs associated with each display, and provide realistic generation output from the displays. CVEA members could then compare that to their energy usage to determine if they might see any savings.

For information contact Travis Million at 907-822-8345 or email million@cvea.org.