



City of Ellensburg Net Metering — Customer Guide

Applies to customers with solar or other small Distributed Generation (DG) connected to the City's electric grid. Administered under RCW 80.60.030 and City interconnection standards.

What is Net Metering?

- A special meter tracks electricity flowing both ways at your home or business.
- When your system produces more than you use, you earn kilowatt-hour (kWh) credits at the same retail rate you pay for electricity.
- You still pay the monthly customer charge to stay connected to the grid.

How your monthly bill works

- The meter "nets" your usage and your generation for the billing period.
- If generation \geq consumption:
 - Energy charges for that month are \$0; you pay only the customer charge.
 - Any extra kWh's are "banked" as credits for a future month in the same program year.
- If consumption $>$ generation:
 - You pay for the "net difference" in kWh at the regular retail rate, plus the customer charge.

Annual true-up (credit purchase)

- Credits roll forward month-to-month within the program year.
- On March 31 each year, any unused kWh credits remaining from the prior 12 months are purchased by the City at its average wholesale cost of power (this is lower than the retail rate and is not required under RCW 80.60.030).
- After the March 31 purchase, your credit balance resets to zero.

Examples

Example A — Solar $>$ Use this month

- Generation: 450 kWh; Consumption: 300 kWh \rightarrow Bank 150 kWh. Bill: customer charge only.

Example B — Use $>$ Solar this month

- Generation: 300 kWh; Consumption: 450 kWh \rightarrow Net 150 kWh billed at retail + customer charge.

Example C — March 31 true-up

- If 200 kWh remain in your bank on March 31, the City buys those 200 kWh's at its average wholesale cost of power and resets your bank to 0.

Key terms

- Customer charge: Fixed monthly charge for grid connection and services.
- Retail rate: The same per-kWh rate you pay for electricity.
- Banked credit: Excess kWh carried forward within the program year.
- Average wholesale cost of power: City's cost to purchase power from the wholesale market/suppliers; used for the March 31 credit purchase.