

How Self-Generated Electricity Impacts Your Bill

Monthly

1. You will continue to receive a regular NFEC bill each month.
2. Around the same time, you will also receive an e-mail with a spreadsheet detailing in 15 minute increments the energy received from NFEC, and the energy generated by your solar installation in excess of your usage, which was exported back onto the grid during the billing period.
3. The bill you will receive each month will be similar to the current bill you receive for standard residential service with some of the differences highlighted below.

Customer Charge:

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| ≤ 25 kW | \$37.50 per meter per month |
| > 25 kW | \$125.00 per meter per month |

Energy Charge:

- ≤ 25 kW of connected generation
 - NFEC offers **Net Metering*
 - Excess energy supplied by NFEC will be billed at current residential rates
- > 25 kW & ≤ 100 kW
 - NFEC purchases will be at the cooperative's power supplier's **avoided cost*. The member will be compensated for avoided cost by a bill credit.
 - All energy supplied by NFEC will be billed at current residential rates

Be sure to call NFEC before contracting any solar installation!

***Net Metering** – The electricity generated by your renewable system serves the immediate energy needs of your home and may reduce your monthly electric bill. Any additional power your home requires—day or night—is automatically supplied by NFEC. In the same way, any surplus electricity your renewable system generates, but your home does not use, will be exported back to the electric grid. NFEC will net the energy exported back to the electric grid against any additional power you have received from the grid during the same billing period to determine the amount of energy to be billed during the billing period. If the energy exported back to the grid during the billing period exceeds energy supplied by NFEC, the excess energy shall be provided at no charge to NFEC.

***Avoided Cost** – NFEC's average cost of purchased power less fuel cost.

Remember: Before you install a renewable energy source for your property, we strongly recommend you do everything you can to improve your current energy efficiency. A few simple measures such as adding insulation and weather stripping can reduce your overall energy consumption. You may be able to save thousands of dollars in up-front costs by reducing the size of the system to meet your energy needs. Understanding your energy usage will also help to prepare you for an informed discussion with your contractor.

Northfork Electric Cooperative

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SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

A Basic Guide For NFEC Members

Northfork Electric Cooperative recognizes that some members have an interest in solar energy, however, many times the information received may be confusing or incomplete. We want to ensure that NFEC members know what to expect when considering a solar generating system for their residence.

Since each home is unique, please call us at **580-928-3366** so that we can help.



Northfork Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections® 

Steps to Install and Connect

NFEC offers the following steps to guide a proper energy system decision:

1. Prepare Your Property and Find a Contractor

Key Roles: You

Call NFEC to schedule an energy efficiency audit. This will provide key information about your current home energy usage and will help you make choices that reduce your overall electricity consumption.

- Make your home more energy efficient, by adding insulation and weather stripping, which will save you money by reducing the size of the renewable energy system you will need to install.
- Choose a reputable contractor/installer that meets your needs and budget. When looking for a contractor, contact renewable energy associations, your state energy office, your state Attorney General's office, extension service staff, and any other local experts you can call on for assistance and advice.



2. Prepare Interconnection Agreement

Key Roles: You & Your Contractor

Once you and your contractor identify the appropriate renewable energy system to match your home's needs, the contractor should assist you in completing the **interconnection agreement* to connect your system to NFEC's electric grid.

**When solar electric generation is connected to utility metered wiring at your home or business, it is interconnected to the national power grid. The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service requires interconnection agreements for power generating equipment tied to funded rural electric systems.*

- Request and review NFEC's Distributed Generation Policy 1-11 and a current rate schedule. Talk to us about the best option for your residence.
- Research and ask your contractor whether you qualify for any manufacturer rebates. Also, take time to visit www.energystar.gov/taxcredits to see what potential tax credits are currently available.
- **Timeline:** Make sure that you and your contractor complete and submit the interconnection application early so that you can start generating energy quickly after application approval and installation.

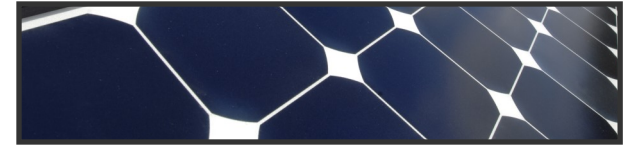
3. Installation

Key Roles: Your Contractor

Your contractor ensures the delivery and complete installation of the energy system at your property.

- Check each contractor's references and liability insurance.

- Talk to your contractor before installation to choose a delivery date and request a time estimate for completion.
- **Timeline:** Installation generally takes a few days to a few weeks depending on the unique conditions of your property or system.



4. Permission to Operate

Key Roles: You, Your Contractor & NFEC

You and your contractor submit all required paperwork to NFEC, including the interconnection application filled out early in the process, and a line diagram of the system. Once approved, NFEC will upgrade your meter and send you official written permission to operate.

- For safety reasons, keep your system turned off until you have received official permission to operate from NFEC.
- Include your email address on the interconnection application to receive approval faster by email.
- **Timeline:** Once NFEC receives the completed paperwork from you and your contractor, it typically takes six to eight weeks to receive your permission to operate. ***Please check with NFEC for current application approval time frames.**
- **Important Note:** In some cases, NFEC's engineering system review may determine that additional system upgrades are necessary to support your installation and this may cause you to incur additional cost and delay your installation.