



Holland Board of Public Works

Net Metering

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Net Metering Program?

The Net Metering Program is a way for customers who generate a part or all of their electricity using renewable resources to receive generation credits.

How does the program work?

If you qualify for the program, your renewable generator must be sized to meet your annual electricity needs up to a maximum of 30 kW. A meter will be installed to measure the output of your renewable generator. Another separate meter will record the electric energy received from and put back onto the electric grid. Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) will read the meters and bill you for energy supplied from the electric grid and give you credit for energy you generated on site. If you generate more electricity than you use, you will be given Net Excess Generation (NEG) credits, which you can carry forward to future billing periods.

How will I receive my generation credit?

You'll receive a bill – just as you do now – for the electricity you use. The bill will also provide credits for the output of your generator up to your total consumption for the month. If the output of your renewable generator exceeds your monthly energy use, the excess will be carried to your next billing in the form of a NEG credit

Who is eligible for the program?

Net metering is available to any HBPW customer who generates electricity primarily for their own use from the identified renewable sources.

What renewable resources can I use?

Solar, wind, biomass, hydro, geothermal, or other approved renewable resources can be used to generate electricity that qualifies under this program. If you use biomass you may not blend with fossil fuel.

Should I participate?

That's a decision that you'll need to determine on your own. Many customers will base their decision on the length of time it takes to recoup their investment in a renewable generator and installation.

We suggest that you begin by estimating your annual electricity needs, and then estimate the amount of generation you expect to produce. In some cases, the amount of energy you produce may not be sufficient to warrant becoming a net metering participant because the output will not be

sufficient to create Net Excess Generation credits. However, you can still use a renewable generator without being a net metering customer. This would still require an interconnection with the grid, but would not require the metering of your renewable generator. You would simply be satisfying a part of your own electricity requirements with your generator.

Will I need another meter?

Yes. You'll need to have a separate generation meter installed in order to receive any Net Excess Generation credits. HBPW will own, install, and maintain the generation meter.

How do I request to participate in Net Metering?

Customers must be approved in advance for an interconnection with the utility distribution system in order to participate in the Net Metering Program. Complete the request for an interconnection study found in the [Utility Generator Interconnection Requirements](#)

In addition, complete and send us a Net Metering Program application. The application fee is \$100. The Net Metering Program application provides the HBPW with notice that your interconnection requires special metering. This metering will ensure that you receive proper credit for the output of your renewable generator.

Is there an easy way to figure out whether or not net metering could be cost-effective for me?

To determine the economics of net metering, you should determine the annual estimated output of your generator. You will also need to know the expected life of your renewable generator and the cost of the fuel (if any). You can compare this value (or benefit) to the normal annual electric billings you would expect on your regular electric rate.