

NET METERING FAQ's

The purpose of this page is to help members of Fall River Electric (FRE) better understand FRE's net metering program. The provided information is intended to be a guide and is not all inclusive. Consumers bear the responsibility to do their own due diligence in asking the appropriate questions, conducting their own review of the costs and estimated generation, checking the financial projections offered by vendors and signing agreements.

Q - What is net metering?

A - Net metering is a billing method that allows residential & commercial members who generate their own electricity to receive credit for that generation that goes back into FRE's grid thus supplementing their own cost for electricity.

Q - How much does a member receive for their electrical generation?

A - FRE's credits members at the same rate FRE pays for wholesale power (0.0382 cents per kilowatt hour as of Jan 2020)

Q - How often does a net metering member receive a credit?

A - Credits are generated on a monthly basis for Idaho & Montana members and annually for Wyoming. This could change in the future to be hourly or even at shorter intervals.

Q - How many FRE members participate in net metering?

A - As of December 2019, FRE has 101 residential net metering members & 8 commercial members representing a total of less than 1% of all FRE's customers.

Q - What is the average excess power generation by FRE net metering members?

A - As of December 2019, residential net metering members average 341 kilowatt hours monthly of generation or 4,088 kWhs annually. The average annual generation was from 98 kWhs up to 691 kWhs. Monthly amounts vary with typically less in winter when snow can be a factor. Slightly fewer than 60% of net metering members generate more kilowatt hours than they consume.

Q - Can FRE assist members who are considering installing distributed energy systems as to what works best for our area?

A - Several years ago, FRE installed identically rated distributed energy solar panels & a wind turbine at its Ashton office & members can view the generation each of those systems offer on the FRE website. Generation can be viewed daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly. Fall River's staff can provide expert insights and tools as you contemplate investing in distributed generation. Please give us a call during normal business hours Monday through Friday at 800.632.5726.

Q - Does FRE sell and/or install net metering systems?

A - No, not at the present time however, FRE has installed solar panels & wind turbines at several local high schools for educational purposes so FRE engineers have first-hand knowledge of the processes involved in the citing & construction of those type of distributed energy systems.

Q - What is the process to connect to FRE?

A - Members are limited to adding no more than 25KW of net generation for net metering. Once the system has been installed, a State electrical inspection must be done and FRE will inspect as well. Soon there will be a brief application to track the size, inverter and type of generation.

Q - Will the net metering tariff change?

A - Yes, the avoided or wholesale cost FRE pays for power changes & the tariff is updated annually to reflect those changes.

Q - What is the value of the power generated from a net metering distributed generation system in excess of the power a member uses?

A - The value changes typically on an annual basis. In 2020, the value was 3.82 cents for all power generated in excess of the member's own use on a monthly basis in Idaho & Montana while annually for members living in Wyoming.

