Missouri Net-metering & Easy Connection Act

What is Net-Metering?

Customers generating their own electricity primarily for their own use using renewable energy sources and putting excess electricity, if any, back on to "the grid."

If the Customer Generates More Energy Than She Uses

What is Avoided Cost? "Avoided Costs means the incremental costs to an electric utility of electric energy or capacity or both which, but for the purchase from the qualifying facility or qualifying facilities, that the utility would generate itself or purchase from another source." CSR 240-20.060(1)

Qualification for “Customer-Generator”

Customer-generator is the owner or operator of a qualified electric energy generation unit which:

(a) Is powered by a renewable energy resource;
(b) Has an electric generating system with a capacity of ***not more than one hundred kilowatts***;
(c) Is located on a premises owned, operated, leased, or otherwise controlled by the customer-generator;
(d) Is interconnected and operates in parallel phase and synchronization with a retail electric supplier and has been approved by said retail electric supplier;

Qualification for “Customer-Generator”, Cont.

(e) Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator’s own electric energy requirements;

(f) meets all applicable safety, performance, interconnection, and reliability standard established by the National Electric Code, the National Electric Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Underwriters Laboratories, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and any local governing authority; and

(g) Contains a mechanism that automatically disables the unit and interrupts the flow of electricity back onto the supplier’s electricity lines in the event that service to the customer-generator is interrupted.

Aggregate Limit on Net-Metered Customers

(1) Make net metering available to customer-generators on a first-come, first-served basis ***until the total rated generating capacity of net metering systems equals five percent of the utility's single-hour peak load during the previous year***, after which the commission for a public utility or the governing body for other electric utilities may increase the total rated generating capacity of net metering systems to an amount above five percent. However, in a given calendar year, ***no retail electric supplier shall be required to approve any application for interconnection if the total rated generating capacity of all applications for interconnection already approved to date by said supplier in said calendar year equals or exceeds one percent of said supplier's single-hour peak load for the previous calendar year***;

How is Net Electrical Energy Measured?

The net electrical energy measurement shall be calculated in the following manner:

(1) For a customer-generator, a retail electrical energy produced or consumed during the billing period in accordance with normal metering practices for customers in the same rate class, either by employing a single, bidirectional meter that measures the amount of electrical energy produced and consumed, or by employing multiple meters that separately measure the customer-generator's consumption and production of electricity; supplier shall measure the net

How is the Customer-Generator Paid for Excess Electricity Put Back on the Grid?

(3) If the electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the supplier during a billing period, the customer-generator shall be billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period in accordance with subsection 3 of this section and shall be credited an amount at least equal to the avoided fuel cost of the excess kilowatt-hours generated during the billing period, with this credit applied to the following billing period;

Use Them or Lose Them: Credits, But No Money

(4) Any credits granted by this subsection shall expire without any compensation at the earlier of either twelve months after their issuance or when the customer-generator disconnects service or terminates the net metering relationship with the supplier

How We Could Increase the Number of Customer-Generators in Missouri

1. Increase the system size limit to 250 kilowatts
2. Allow for “virtual net-metering”
3. Increase the aggregate cap

What is “Virtual” Net-metering?

Virtual net metering allows a customer to assign the net production from an electric generator to other metered accounts that are not physically connected to that generator