



## **Solar Installs and Net Metering**

Residential solar panel systems are becoming more attainable and homeowners are exploring solar panels as an additional source for powering their homes. The amount of electricity produced by solar panels depends on several factors, including your home's sunlight exposure, energy use habits and the number of panels installed. In many cases, solar panels can generate an adequate amount of electricity to power your home.

## What is net metering?

NorVal Electric offers a net metering program, which compensates solar owners for any excess electricity produced by their system. If solar panels generate more power than the home requires, the additional electricity can be fed back to the electric grid. Depending on the size of the solar panel system, the homeowner will either receive a monthly credit on their energy bill, or accumulate kWh credits that get reconciled annually for the excess energy. This billing arrangement is known as "net metering."

Net metering can be helpful throughout the year, as solar

production is typically higher during summer months and lower during winter months.

# How does NorVal know the amount to credit?

When solar panels produce less electricity than the home requires, the electric meter runs forward, just as it would on a home without solar panels. When the solar system generates more electricity than you need, the net meter reports received kWh, and the excess power is sent back to the grid. At the end of the billing cycle, you are charged for the "net" energy used. It is important to understand that the amount of electricity you use does not include the full cost of maintaining the infrastructure that supports your home year-round. This is why you will typically see charges (in addition to "net" use) that help maintain a safe and reliable system including overhead and maintenance costs.

# Who uses the excess power generated by the solar system?

The electricity produced by solar does not go directly to your neighbors. The power received is managed by NorVal and credits

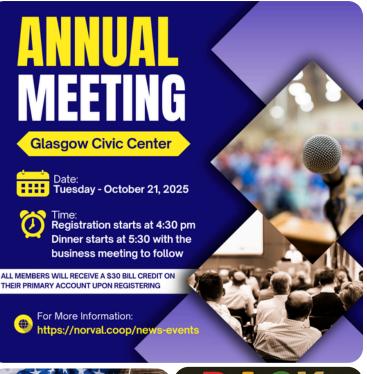
are applied for any excess power you have contributed.

While generating electricity from the sun (and sending excess power back to the grid) is an exciting opportunity, it is important to thoroughly research the details before installing solar panels or any other type of small-scale renewable energy system. You should work with a reputable solar vendor to ensure generation estimates are realistic and that your home is equipped for the system.

If you would like to install solar and participate in net metering, you will need to coordinate the installation and billing with the NorVal staff. You will also have to sign an interconnection agreement specific to the size of your solar panel system and obtain insurance.

NorVal will ensure a bi-directional electric meter is installed and the appropriate net metering rate is set up.

If you are considering a solar install or would like to learn more about net metering, please call our office. By connecting with us first, you can gain a better understanding of the solar energy system and requirements.







administrators and parents a great

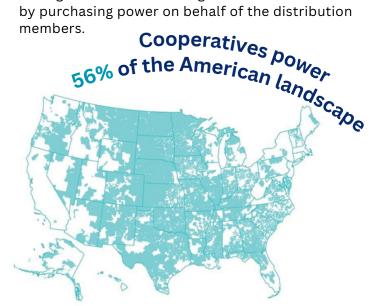


Know what's **below. Call** before you dig.

## **America's Electric Cooperatives**

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives keep the lights on and play a vital role in transforming communities.

- Co-ops serve **42 million** people, including **92%** of persistent poverty counties.
- Co-ops power over 22 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states.
- Co-ops return more than \$1 billion to their consumer-members annually as not-for-profit organizations.
- 830 distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community by delivering electricity and other services.
- 64 generation & transmission cooperatives provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.



#### CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP

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NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Office Hours

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