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# Net Metering Program

## USER GUIDE



The information in this document is subject to change without notice.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Program Overview ..... 3
- 2. Eligibility..... 3
  - 2.1. Eligible Applicant ..... 3
  - 2.2. Eligible Energy Resources ..... 3
  - 2.3. Project Size ..... 3
- 3. Credit Rate ..... 3
- 4. Program Participation..... 4
- 5. Summary of Costs ..... 4
- 6. Application and Interconnection Process..... 5
  - 6.1. Electrical Review and Permit ..... 5
  - 6.2. Net Metering Program Application Form..... 5
  - 6.3. Quote Letter and Program Terms and Conditions Document ..... 6
  - 6.4. System Installation ..... 6
  - 6.5. Electrical Inspection..... 6
  - 6.6. Bi-directional Meter Installation..... 7
- 7. Further Information..... 7
  - 7.1. Bi-Directional Meter ..... 7
  - 7.2. Self Generation and Power Outages ..... 7
  - 7.3. Once You Are in the Program ..... 8
- 8. Contact Us..... 8
- 9. Reference Documents ..... 8
- SaskPower Net Metering Program Checklist ..... 9**

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## 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SaskPower's *Net Metering Program* provides SaskPower participants with the opportunity to generate up to 100 kW (DC) of power, using an eligible energy resource, to offset their own power use, while still being able to draw from the SaskPower grid when needed.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

### 2.1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANT

- I. The program is open to all SaskPower customers - residential, farms, businesses, and institutions.
- II. If you are not a SaskPower customer, please check with your power provider for program details.

### 2.2. ELIGIBLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Power must be generated using one of the following qualified resources:

- III. **Solar:** power generated by capturing sunlight and converting it to electricity through the use of photovoltaic modules (panels).
- IV. **Low-impact Hydro:** power generated by sending water from a river through a turbine(s), which spin and generate power.
- V. **Biomass/Biogas:** power generated by burning organic materials to create heat and steam to spin a turbine(s) to create electricity.
- VI. **Flare Gas:** power generated through the combustion of solution flare gas to create electricity.
- VII. **Waste Heat Recovery:** power generated through the recovery of usable energy from a source of waste heat, such as a manufacturing process, that does not use any other source of fossil fuel to generate the power in creating electricity.

All generation equipment used must be certified for use in Canada. For more information on Canadian Electrical Codes, the Electrical Inspection Act, and Saskatchewan interpretations, visit [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com).

### 2.3. PROJECT SIZE

The program allows for projects up to 100 kW DC nameplate generating capacity per customer meter. Participants are eligible for a maximum of 500 kW of projects per calendar year on different meters.

## 3. CREDIT RATE

SaskPower will credit your account for the excess power you generate at a pre-determined rate. The net metering rate paid for excess power may be found on SaskPower's website at <https://www.saskpower.com/netmetering>. Each month, the dollar amount of electric generated you send to the SaskPower grid is subtracted from the dollar amount of consumed electricity you took from the SaskPower grid, and the excess will be displayed as a dollar credit on the energy portion of your bill, for use in the following month. The dollar credit of electricity generated can only be

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applied to the dollar amount of electricity consumed. Excess credit dollar amounts will not be applied to any other billing charges or taxes. The credit will be carried forward for the life of your SaskPower account at that location.

## 4. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

The *Net Metering Program* participant may cancel their participation in the program, at anytime. Your participation will automatically terminate if you terminate your account with SaskPower for electrical service at the location the generation system is connected to the grid. Participation in this program is not transferable. New owners/tenants will be offered participation in the available program at the time when a new SaskPower electrical service account is changed.

## 5. SUMMARY OF COSTS

- I. **Interconnection Study Fee:** A \$315 (GST included) non-refundable fee must be paid within 30 calendar days of the invoice issue date. This is a fee for service to have a SaskPower employee, from Distribution Services, review the participant's system proposal and its impact on interconnection with SaskPower's grid.
- II. **Bi-directional Meter:** At a minimum, this would include \$498.75 (GST included) for the installation of a bi-directional meter, which is quoted with the Program's Terms and Conditions Document and Quote Letter. This is a fee for the installation, ongoing maintenance, and replacement of the bi-directional meter over the life of the participant's participation in the program. If the participant only has the meter fee, then the participant will be invoiced after the service is installed. If the participant has the meter fee plus interconnection costs, the participant will be asked to pay a 25% down payment before the work is started and the remainder will be invoiced once the service is completed.
- III. **Electrical Permits:** You are required to obtain an electrical permit from Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK) before beginning any construction of your project. For more information, including permit prices, visit the electrical inspections page on <https://www.tsask.ca/electrical>. The Electrical Inspection department reviews the system relevant to the participant's side of the meter.
- IV. **Interconnection Costs:** You are responsible for all SaskPower construction costs associated with connecting your project to the SaskPower grid, including system and facility upgrades as required. All costs will be included in your Quote Letter. For large generation systems it is possible that your installation could trigger relatively high-cost interconnection facilities needed to protect the SaskPower grid and other customers. You may need to increase the size of your electrical entrance/main service and we may need to increase the size of the transformer serving your site. You would be responsible for all of these costs. Please ensure you do not over-commit to your project prior to our interconnection study being completed. Often these interconnection costs can be in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars.

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- V. **Project Costs:** You are responsible for all costs associated with the purchase and installation of your project, including equipment and supplier/electrician/contractor costs.

## 6. APPLICATION AND INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

SaskPower participants can apply to the *Net Metering Program* while the program is made available for participation.

To apply, follow the steps below.

### 6.1. ELECTRICAL REVIEW AND PERMIT

This step can be completed at the same time as the *Net Metering Program* application form. Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK) will review your project to ensure it meets Canadian Electrical Code – Saskatchewan Interpretation requirements.

- I. Complete the Renewables Information Check Sheet on [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com) and send it to TSASK at [electricalplansreview@tsask.ca](mailto:electricalplansreview@tsask.ca). Project reviews take approximately 6-8 weeks. Make sure to also include all required exhibits listed below.
  - Electrical single line diagram, drawn by an electrician or engineer, from the generating system to the main AC breaker and to the grid.
  - Site location map, including location of generating system and meter location.
  - Specification sheets for all equipment to be installed (i.e. inverter(s), modules, generators, etc.).
- II. Your contractor must obtain an electrical permit before beginning any work on your system. An electrical permit is required before an on-site electrical inspection of your system is conducted and installation of a bi-directional meter can be completed.

### 6.2. NET METERING PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

- I. Complete the online *Net Metering Program* application form on [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com) and include all required exhibits listed below. Please ensure the name on the application form matches exactly, including secondary names, the names that appear on your monthly SaskPower bill. You are also responsible to obtain any permits and approvals required by your local municipal bylaws.
  - Electrical single line diagram, drawn by an electrician or engineer, from the generating system to the main AC breaker and to the grid, showing specific detail of equipment to be used, numbers, model, type, wattage size, wiring gauge, etc.
  - Site location map, including location of generating system and SaskPower meter location. Submission of site plans, especially in rural areas/acreages – to include an area map with power meter location in relation to a grid road.
  - Specification sheets for all equipment to be installed (i.e. inverter(s), modules, generators, etc.)
- II. After your application has been received by SaskPower Distribution Services, including the required documents noted above, SaskPower will send a confirmation number to the participant's provided email address and issue an invoice to the participant for the \$315 (GST included) non-refundable

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interconnection study fee. The invoice must be paid within 30 calendar days of the issue date to avoid late payment charges. Payment details will accompany the invoice. Payments can be made online.

- III. Once the invoice is paid, your application will be sent to SaskPower's engineering department to conduct the interconnection study.

### 6.3. QUOTE LETTER AND PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS DOCUMENT

- I. Once the interconnection study is complete, we will email you a Quote Letter and the Net Metering Program Terms and Conditions Document. The Quote Letter will include the total costs of your project's interconnection to SaskPower's grid, including the cost of the bi-directional meter. The Terms and Conditions Document will display your contact and project information.
- II. If you have any questions about the costs identified in the Quote Letter, the SaskPower business office listed on the Quote Letter is available to assist you.
- III. Sign and return both the Quote Letter and your Net Metering Program Terms and Conditions Document, as well as payment for the costs identified in the Quote Letter. If there are interconnection costs identified in addition to the bidirectional meter charge, you will be required to pay 25% down before SaskPower will advance your project. Payments can be made online through your financial institution by selecting "SaskPower Other Services" as the payee and entering the invoice account number found on the invoice. Projects with only a bi-directional meter cost will have those costs invoiced once the bi-directional meter is installed.
- IV. Provide SaskPower the electrical permit number that you received from TSASK as SaskPower requires that to install your bi-directional meter.

### 6.4. SYSTEM INSTALLATION

- I. Once you have obtained the electrical permit, finalize your project with your vendor and arrange for the generation system to be installed.
- II. If you change the equipment used or generation size (kW) of your project from what was originally submitted, you will have to provide updated/ new exhibits to the SaskPower business office, as noted on the Quote Letter; and submit the updated/ new exhibits to TSASK.

### 6.5. ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

- I. Once your system is installed and tested to work correctly, you must contact TSASK to arrange an on-site inspection of the project. This can be done a week or two in advance to minimize delays. The electrical inspector requires the contractor/electrician to be present during the on-site inspection. An electrical inspection cannot be done without first applying to the SaskPower Net Metering Program and obtaining an electrical permit. Once the electrical inspection is complete, TSASK will leave a tag on the meter indicating the generation system must NOT be energized until the bi-directional meter is installed (if the bi-directional meter is not installed yet).  
You can contact TSASK at 1-866-530-8599, Option 1 or at [electricalplansreview@tsask.ca](mailto:electricalplansreview@tsask.ca).

## 6.6. BI-DIRECTIONAL METER INSTALLATION

- I. A bi-directional meter will be scheduled for installation by SaskPower. Once your generation system is installed and you have provided SaskPower with an electrical permit number, the installation of the bi-directional meter will take approximately 2 weeks. The bi-directional meter may be installed prior to the Electrical Inspection. Once the meter has been installed, SaskPower will leave a tag on the meter indicating the generation system must NOT be energized until the Electrical Inspection is complete (if the inspection is not complete yet). You or your contractor/electrician is not required to be present for the installation of the bi-directional meter.
- II. A condition to participating in the Net Metering Program: all participants will have a bi-directional smart meter installed.

The power from your generation system will be used by the building first. Your SaskPower bill will show the power you consumed that was delivered by the SaskPower grid and any excess power you generate that is received by the SaskPower grid. If you generate more power than you use in the month, your excess power will be credited to your account at the predetermined rate and applied to your electricity consumed as a dollar value.

## 7. FURTHER INFORMATION

### 7.1. BI-DIRECTIONAL METER

The bi-directional meter displays the power delivered (dEL) by SaskPower to you and the excess power received (rEC) by SaskPower from your generation system. The power generated by your system is used by your building first. This power will not be recorded on the bi-directional meter, or displayed on your power bill, because it is used before it reaches the SaskPower grid.

- If, at any time, your system generates less power than you are using, power will be taken from the SaskPower grid and recorded on your bi-directional meter as delivered (DEL 001) by SaskPower.
- If, at any time, your system generates more power than you are using, the power will be sent to the SaskPower grid and recorded on your bi-directional meter as received (REC 002) by SaskPower.



### 7.2. SELF GENERATION AND POWER OUTAGES

Supplying your own power during a power outage while you are connected to the grid is a concept known as

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islanding. The Canada Standard Association (CSA) and Underwriter Laboratories Inc (cUL) current CSA Standard 22.2 – 107.1/UL 1741 states that during a power outage all systems that are tied to the electrical power grid must be shut down due to safety. For this reason, we require generation facilities connected into the SaskPower distribution system not be permitted to operate during a power outage and that all generation facilities shall be equipped with protection systems, which detect a power island condition and cause the generator to cease to deliver power to the SaskPower distribution system.

### 7.3. ONCE YOU ARE IN THE PROGRAM

Any changes to your account or services with SaskPower will result in a change to your Program participation and agreement. As an example:

- Selling or renting a facility where the system operates requires a change in the agreement holder.
- Increasing the size of the system requires a new submission application into the program.
- No equalized payment plan will be allowed on the account.
- Your SaskPower smart meters will be remotely read monthly, so there is no longer a need or option to call SaskPower and submit your meter read by phone.
- A condition to the Net Metering Program, all participants will have a bi-directional smart meter installed.
- The account must remain in good standing.
- Program participants' agreements are not transferable.

## 8. CONTACT US

Any questions about the *Net Metering Program* can be sent to [customergeneration@saskpower.com](mailto:customergeneration@saskpower.com).

## 9. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Documents and information located on [www.saskpower.com](http://www.saskpower.com)

- a) Electric Service Requirements,
- b) Generation Interconnection Requirements at Voltage 34.5 kV and below,
- c) Terms & Conditions of Service

# SaskPower Net Metering Program Checklist

Thank you for your interest in the SaskPower Net Metering Program! Please refer to the checklist below to help guide you through the Application and Interconnection Process. **If you have any program questions, please email us at: [customergeneration@saskpower.com](mailto:customergeneration@saskpower.com).**

- Review Net Metering program details (as provided on [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com)) and plan your generation project.
  - Understand your previous consumption to determine the right size system.
  - Make sure you thoroughly research and understand the project, program, costs, and potential savings before committing to a project.
  - Request quotes from multiple vendors.
  - Your vendor to design your project and ensure they have all documentation ready for the process.
- Submit the Renewables Information Check Sheet and apply for an electrical permit with TSASK.
- Submit Net Metering application form via [saskpower.com](http://saskpower.com). Ensure you submit all 3 documents, including:
  - Electrical single line diagram, drawn by an electrician or engineer, from the generating system to the main AC breaker and to the grid.
  - Site location map, including location of generating system and meter location.
  - Specification sheets for all equipment to be installed (i.e. inverter(s), modules, generators, etc.).
- Submit any missing information to [newservices@saskpower.com](mailto:newservices@saskpower.com) if applicable.
- Make \$315 payment for application fee via online banking or by cheque (please see invoice for payment details).
- Review and sign the Quote Letter and Terms and Conditions Document and return to SaskPower Customer Relations (email, fax, or mail). Pay the 25% down payment if applicable. Keep a copy of your signed documents for reference.
- Contact your vendor to begin construction of your net metering project.
- Contact your vendor to schedule an onsite inspection with TSASK.
- Confirm that the electrical inspection is complete, and the bi-directional meter is installed. It is not acceptable to start generating until both are done.
- Energize your system.
- Make payment for the bi-directional meter fee and any remaining interconnection charges (if applicable). Payment may be submitted via online banking or by cheque (please see invoice for payment details).