



Illinois Net Metering: Systems installed post-2025

FACT SHEET

July 2025

Important: This fact sheet is for people who installed solar panels after Jan. 1, 2025. If you installed panels before that date, please refer to our pre-2025 fact sheet.

If you own or operate a renewable electricity generator, such as rooftop solar panels, you may be able to receive a benefit called “net metering.” Residential and commercial customers of Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), Ameren Illinois and MidAmerican can participate in net metering.

What is net metering?

Under net metering policy, if you generate your own electricity through solar panels, for example, you can get credits on the three main sections of your bill (supply, delivery and taxes/fees) for those times when you generate more power than you use. Your utility will only charge you for the net amount of electricity you consume, plus any other fixed delivery charges.

What types of systems qualify?

You must own or operate an on-site renewable electricity generator of up to 2,000 kilowatts (kW) that is used at your home or business. While residential rooftop solar is the most common application, net metering can apply to other forms of renewable electricity generators:

- Wind
- Dedicated crops grown for electricity generation
- Anaerobic digestion of livestock or food-processing waste
- Fuel cells or microturbines powered by renewable fuels
- Hydroelectric energy
- Solar energy (photovoltaic, or “PV”)

How much am I paid for excess power I generate?

Illinois net metering law requires investor-owned utilities (ComEd, Ameren, MidAmerican) to offer credits under the supply portion of the bill for excess renewable energy generation sent back to the utility’s grid. Under current policy, you will be credited on the supply portion of your bill for the electricity you send back to the grid at the same rate that you are charged for electricity: One kilowatt-hour sent to the grid offsets one kilowatt-hour used from the grid. In a given month, if you produce more electricity than you use, the excess net metering credits will rollover to the next month and can help offset future electricity usage. These credits do not expire.

Remember, even though these credits don’t expire, your utility will never write you a check for that amount—they

simply rollover. So it is still economical to have your renewable energy system match your household’s electricity demand.

If you are a customer of a municipal utility or electric cooperative, contact it to see if they have a net metering program. Illinois’ 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) requires all municipal utilities and co-ops to publish their net metering policies.

Are there any rebates I should know about?

You may be eligible for a “Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate.” The rebate requires the use of a smart inverter (equipment that helps transfer electricity from the solar panels to your home). The value of the rebate will depend on the size of your installation. (Under law, the rebate will be at least \$300 per kilowatt of generating capacity.) Ask your utility about rebates for installing solar and/or battery storage from your utility.

What is interconnection?

When you apply for net metering, you will also have to apply for interconnection, which is permission to connect your renewable generator to the electric utility’s grid. If you are installing a residential solar system, your solar installer will typically fill out both the net metering and interconnection applications on your behalf—but make sure to check with the installer to confirm. If you are installing a different type of renewable generator, ask the company you are working with if they will handle the interconnection and net metering applications.

How do interconnection and net metering change, depending on the size of my installation?

Net metering and interconnection both become more complicated if you are trying to install a large system—between 10 kilowatts (kW) and 2,000 kW. (The average residential solar installation in Illinois is about 7 kW.)

With larger systems, the utility may need to conduct a study to see if the electricity network in your area can accommodate the power your system is expected to export to the grid. For some large systems, they may determine that the grid cannot accommodate the new generation. In this case you would be required to pay for the grid upgrades necessary to accommodate your system’s electricity generation.

If you are thinking of installing a larger renewable energy generator we recommend involving your utility company from the early planning stages, so that you are not surprised by any of the associated costs.

For more information on interconnecting larger systems see the [Administrative Code on Interconnection of Distributed Generation Facilities \(Title 83, Parts 466 and 467\)](#).

Can I participate in net metering if I'm with an alternative supplier?

Yes. Alternative suppliers are required to offer net metering and to provide credits at the same rate they are charging you for electricity. Alternative suppliers also are required to make contact information available specifically for net metering customers.

While they are required to comply, alternative suppliers do not always meet these requirements. It's often simpler to cancel with an alternative supplier and participate in net metering with your utility company. The utility companies have larger net metering departments than the suppliers, making it easier for them to address your questions.

For both ComEd and Ameren, net metering customers will no longer lose banked credits (that have rolled over from a previous month) when switching suppliers.

Can I participate in real time pricing and net metering?

Yes. ComEd and Ameren customers with rooftop solar installations can still participate in their utility's real time pricing program ("Hourly Pricing" for ComEd, "Power Smart Pricing" for Ameren), which charges participants a market rate that can change hourly. Such a program does not guarantee savings, but it can be beneficial if you can avoid

heavy electricity usage during times of the day when prices are high. If you are on a real time pricing program, your net metering credits will reflect those hourly rates. Some other things you should know:

- Real time pricing is only recommended if you own your panels. If you are on a solar lease or Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), you will be charged a different rate than what you received in net metering credits on your utility bill.
- When switching from a fixed-price rate to ComEd's Hourly Pricing program, the net metering credit applied to your bill switches from a kilowatt-hour credit to a monetary credit (If a net metering customer decides to switch back to a fixed rate, their accumulated credits remain as monetary credit on future bills.)
- For Ameren customers, any switch from a fixed-price rate to Power Smart Pricing will result in a loss of all stored credits.

There's no guarantee real time pricing will help solar customers save money—it depends on your circumstances. One benefit: You can pull power from your panels on hot summer afternoons and avoid paying peak prices for electricity. Additionally, if you own an electric vehicle, you can charge your vehicle at night, when prices are typically lower, and your net metering credits will cover more of your car-charging expenses.

If you are interested, give real time pricing a try and check your monthly results (emailed to you every month) to make sure the program is saving you money.

How Do I Apply for Net Metering?

Typically, the installer you're working with will fill out the net metering application for you. We recommend confirming this with your installer. For more information, or to apply for net metering, contact your electric utility.

ComEd

Phone: 1-800-825-5436

E-mail: NetMetering@comed.com

[Download the ComEd application](#)

Ameren

E-mail: renewablesillinois@ameren.com

[Download the Ameren application](#)

MidAmerican (Private Generation)

Email: PrivateGeneration@midamerican.com

Telephone (Daytime): 1-877-815-0010

[Download the MidAmerican application](#)