

Member-Owned Generation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I've been thinking about installing a wind turbine or solar photovoltaic generation system on my property. What is the process for adding a generation system to my home or business?

A: To get started, you should do some research regarding the size, type, and cost of the system you are interested in; contact vendors/installers for information; and obtain bids or quotations containing the price and proposed system specifications. You should also obtain a copy of Rock Energy's [Interconnection Policy](#). The Policy can be provided to potential vendors so they know about the cooperative's technical requirements.

Q: Do I need permission to interconnect a generation system to Rock Energy's electric system?

A: Yes. In order to connect a wind turbine, solar system, or other generation equipment to Rock Energy's distribution system, you must first submit a [Parallel Generation Application Form](#) to the cooperative.

Q: How does the application process work?

A: Once you have selected a system, you and your installer should complete and sign Rock Energy's [Parallel Generation Application Form](#). In addition to your address and account information, the application includes specific information about the purpose, output, nature, and design of the proposed generation system. We will try to respond to your application within one week.

Q: What happens when the application is approved?

A: Upon approval, you will be asked to sign an Interconnection Agreement where you agree to operate and maintain your generation system in accordance with Rock Energy's rules and policies. These requirements are designed to protect distribution system facilities, avoid electrical interference problems, and ensure the safety of Rock Energy's members and employees. Your installer may then complete the installation of your generation system in accordance with the [Interconnection Policy](#). You will be required to pay for a meter that measures the output of the generation system and any other special facilities Rock Energy is required to install to accommodate the system.

Q: Will Rock Energy Cooperative buy back any power generated that I don't use?

A: Yes. Rock Energy offers both [Net Metering Service](#) and [Parallel Generation Service](#) to members that own generation systems connected in parallel with the cooperative's electric distribution system. Net Metering Service applies only to renewable generation systems with a capacity of 10 kilowatts (kW) or less and compensates the member for electricity generated at the same rates the member pays for electricity purchased from Rock Energy. Parallel Generation Service applies to all member-owned generation systems with capacity greater than 10 kW and compensates the member for electricity generated at "avoided cost." Avoided cost is what Rock Energy would otherwise have to pay its supplier for power produced by the member's generation system.

Q: How will I know I'm being compensated for the energy produced by my generation system?

A: Both the electricity that you use in your home or business and the electricity that is produced by your generation system will be shown on your electric bill. Electric usage will be shown as charges, while electric generation will be shown as credits that reduce your total power bill.

Q: What if I produce more power than I use?

A: You may accumulate credits on your bill during the year to be applied to future months when consumption of electricity may exceed production. You may not, however, carry over credit balances from year to year. At the end of each calendar year, any remaining credit balance will be zeroed out.