



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the INTERCONNECTION of RENEWABLES

What is the process to Interconnect with SEC?

Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) requires a completed interconnection application to be submitted along with the applicable application fee. The interconnect application is available on our website at www.socorroelectric.com, under “Services”, “Renewable Energy”, then select “Interconnect Program”.

Upon our receipt, review and approval of the application, you will receive a notice from us. The homeowner will then need to call the office and request a meter change from a regular meter to the required CO-GEN NET Meter. Your contractor/electrician will request an electrical inspection with the State of New Mexico. Once the state inspection is complete, SEC will receive a notice of inspection and electric permit from the state. SEC WILL NOT set the CO-GEN NET meter at the site, until we receive the inspection notice from the state. Once the electric permit is received by SEC we will schedule an appointment to inspect your system and install the CO-GEN NET Meter.

What are the application fees?

The application fees are as follows: for a system under 10kW the fee is \$50.00, for a system between 10kW-100kW the fee is \$100.00. Anything over 100kW would be \$100.00 plus an additional \$1.00 per kW over 100kW.

What are the factors in determining the size of system (kW) I can install?

Typically, the residential systems are sized to offset your current energy consumption. We can provide you a printout showing your last 12-month history, and the contractor you are working with can use that to determine the size of system that would be best for you.

If a member is interested in a Production Size System, we do have legal limitations that would not allow a system over a certain size, which is around 1.5MW. There is a lot more involved, and if someone is interested, we would have to set up a meeting.

What benefit might I receive if I generate more energy than I use?

Each month we will get the readings from the CO-GEN NET Meter that is installed at the location of the system. This meter registers the amount of electricity, we deliver to you (DEL), and we receive (REC) from your installation. Anytime you produce more energy than you use, you will receive a credit for the NET difference. If you use more energy than you produce, you will be billed for the NET difference. Regardless of what you produce, you are still billed the system charge and the associated taxes and fees that apply. Per NMPRC we are required to issue you a check when the energy credit from Net Metering reaches \$50.00.

What is the current rate SEC is paying for excess energy generated?

SEC is purchasing the excess energy produced at our Avoided Cost Rate of \$0.02851/kWh. This rate changes in January of each year and is based on kWh sales and kWh purchases from our power supplier.

Many owners of the interconnected systems are discouraged when they find out that SEC does not pay the retail rate of 12.5 per kWh for the excess energy they produce. The NMPRC only requires electric co-ops to pay avoided cost for the energy received from Interconnect member. Avoided Cost basically means what the co-op would pay for that energy if it was purchased from the Wholesale Power Provider, and not from the Interconnect member. SEC feels strongly that we cannot force other members to subsidize the cost of renewable energy and the members who choose to participate.

What is the REC Contract? Is that the energy buyback?

The REC program is in ADDITION to the energy buyback, and you are not required to participate. If you wish to participate, SEC requires an executed copy of the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Contract, and a separate meter base to

be installed on the output side (AC) of the inverter, which would register everything you generate through your REC meter. SEC does not sell REC meters. The member is responsible for providing the REC meter.

Each 1,000 kWh generated produces one (1) REC. Through SEC's REC program, you will receive payments based on the REC Meter reads that you will need to submit on a monthly basis to SEC. The rebates will be issued on a six-month basis; however, we must receive the REC Meter readings no later than the 7th of each month. If these readings are not received by the 7th of each month, you will forfeit the rebates for that month. This reading comes from your REC meter not the SEC CO-GEN NET Meter. The SEC CO-GEN NET Meter is the meter that registers the amount of kWh we deliver to you (DEL) and receive from you (REC). See REC contract for terms and pricing schedule.

Can I purchase equipment (i.e. solar panels, electrical panels, wire) through the co-op to lower my cost?

We do not sell equipment for any renewable source installations.

Would it be safe to assume that the Simplified Interconnection Application (PRC Rule 568) would apply to my system?

Most of the Interconnected Facilities on our system have been approved through the Simplified Interconnect Process. There is a flow chart in the application, to qualify for Simplified Interconnect Process your system must meet all criteria.

What are the costs for this service and equipment?

SEC will charge if your service line or transformer needs to be upgraded because of installing the system and would be able to give you an estimate of cost after a site visit is complete. The CO-GEN NET Meter is no cost, because it remains property of SEC.