



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**green power
connection**
District of Columbia

We support renewable energy and partner with our customers to ensure safe and reliable interconnection of renewable energy into the electric grid.

Net Energy Metering FAQs

What is Net Energy Metering (NEM)? Customers who generate their own electricity with renewable energy sources can interconnect with the electric grid and receive bill credits for excess generation. A special net-capable meter measures the energy a customer uses off the grid and the excess generation the renewable system provides onto the grid, and calculates the difference or “net.”

What is Green Power Connection™? Green Power Connection (GPC) is our process for facilitating small generator and NEM interconnection requests. Our dedicated team of consultants and account coordinators manage the customer’s experience – from processing applications to resolving issues – for residential and smaller commercial interconnection projects.

What is a net-capable meter? A net-capable meter measures energy that flows in both directions between the customer-generator and the electric grid.

What technologies qualify for net energy metering? Small generator technologies that qualify for interconnection with our system include solar (photovoltaic or “PV”), wind, biomass, anaerobic digestion, geothermal electric, fuel cells using renewable sources, hydro, and cogeneration and microturbines. See our GPC website for more details.

When do I start the interconnection application process? Prior to installing and operating a generator system, you must apply and receive the utility’s written approval. For more details, refer to the *Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnection Application Checklist* on our website.

Do I have to interconnect my generator system to the grid? No. But if you wish to export excess generation to the grid and receive bill credits, the system must be interconnected and include a utility-supplied, net-capable meter. You must apply for this interconnection.

Does the net-capable meter measure total generation? No. Generation occurs on the customer side of the meter. Any energy generated is first fed inside the premise for use by the appliances, electronics, lights, etc. The meter measures only the excess energy that is fed onto the grid.

How does the meter show when energy is fed or received? A smart net energy meter has dashes under the display that move in the direction of the energy flow. When the dashes move from left to right, energy is flowing from the grid to the customer’s premise. When the dashes move from right to left, energy is flowing from the customer to the grid.

For more information contact
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Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnections

Application and System FAQs

How long is the application review process? Prior to installing and operating a generating system, you must apply and receive the utility's approval. Review the *Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnection Application Checklist for the District of Columbia* on our website.

How is my application fee determined? Fees are established by our regulators, and vary according to the generator system's nameplate capacity. See our website for a table of the fees in the District.

Why could my interconnection application be delayed or denied? Applications are delayed or denied if required information is incomplete or missing, documents are unsigned, or a fee payment is not included. In some regions, our utility may not have an open circuit, making net metering interconnection unavailable. In the District of Columbia, we currently do not have any restricted circuits. For more details contact our GPC team.

How is the size of the renewable system determined? Divide your total energy consumption (in kWh) from the past 12 months by 1,200. The alternating current (AC) inverter rating has to be equal to or less than that number. We use this formula to comply with District rules, meet all or part of your electrical needs, and follow our regulatory requirements.

What is the maximum size of a small generator system I can install? Customers who install a renewable generating system can offset all or part of the energy they use from Pepco. Interconnection capacity restrictions vary among states and jurisdictions. In the District of Columbia, the system capacity can be up to 100% of your 12-month historical energy consumption.

How can I see how much energy my system generates? Your system's installer can provide details on obtaining a generation monitoring device compatible with your system.

Will my system generate power during a utility power outage? No. If your system is interconnected to the grid, do not attempt to use it during a power outage. The electric inverter immediately shuts down to prevent power from back-feeding to the grid and injuring nearby utility workers. The inverter is the component that converts direct current (DC) power from the renewable generator into alternating current (AC) power used at your premise.

If I have new construction project that will incorporate a small generator system, can I interconnect? Yes. For a facility that is under construction and requires electricity, you will need to

set up electric service prior to installing the generator system. Without any historical energy consumption data, the interconnection application will require a proposed energy usage calculator. For more details, visit our GPC website.

I want to install a large generation facility and sell power directly to the grid. Do I work with the GPC team? Another department within Pepco administers these large PJM¹ power purchase agreements. The GPC team will be glad to refer you to that department.

NEM Billing FAQs

How is excess generation shown on my utility bill? For District of Columbia customers, once the billing period (typically a 30-day cycle) is over, if your system has generated more energy than your premise has consumed, a credit is shown on the *Account Summary* portion of your bill. If you consumed more energy than your system generated, that energy would come from the grid and your bill will include energy charges.

Why does my bill still show charges, if I had excess generation credits? Customer service charges apply to all bills, regardless of energy charges or excess generation credits. If the service charges are more than the generation credits your account would show a balance due. For more details visit our GPC website.

Other FAQs

Are there other factors to consider? Yes. Electric generation from solar sources can fluctuate as a result of several factors — clouds, darkness, and dirty panels all limit generation. Your renewable system may not generate enough energy to meet all of your electrical needs. Prior to installation, understand how your system will operate under varying conditions, and how these conditions can impact your utility bill.

Can I operate my generation facility prior to receiving the final written Authorization to Operate? Our regulators prohibit the interconnection of generation facilities to the electric grid without our written approval. Operating an unauthorized small generator system tied to our grid can:

- Endanger utility workers, who will not have a record of the system
- Pose a safety risk to the customer, system components, facility, and general public
- Cause voltage overload problems on the grid, preventing safe and reliable electric service
- Lead to a cease-and-desist notification
- Lead to disconnection of electric service

Can you recommend a reputable installer? No. We recommend you research and consult with an installer or contractor by using publically available resources. If you decide to work with a contractor, you are responsible to ensure they are using the appropriate forms, fees, and documentation throughout the interconnection process.

¹PJM Interconnection is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.