



Interconnected Customer Owned Generation Metering Changes FAQ

Why did the City need to change net metering?

The City's utility billing software is not able to track net energy. Due to this limitation, the Finance Department had to manually track and record the net energy from each interconnected system. City staff investigated software updates to allow net metering, but our vendor informed us this was not possible. A change to crediting for energy received allows the software to function without any modifications.

How will the Delivered Energy be credited?

The net meter will be read every month. There are two readings, one for Delivered Energy and one for Received Energy. The Delivered Energy is energy provided to the customer from the City. This will be billed at the applicable retail rate. The Received Energy is energy sent from the customer to the City. The Delivered Energy will be credited at the rate stated in the City Code. For all existing customers as of Jan. 15, 2023, this will be the full retail rate. The final energy bill will be arrived at by subtracting the Received Energy from the Delivered Energy. If there is a credit, this credit will be applied to the current month's total utility bill.

What if I have a credit showing for usage on Electric as well as Water?

If a system produces enough electricity that the value of the Received Energy exceeds the amount due for both Electric and Water, the credit will be carried to the next monthly billing period.

Why do I have to pay a Customer Charge if my bill shows a credit?

The Customer Charge is a fee that all connected customers pay that covers a portion of the fixed costs for the City to provide electric service. Customers with zero energy usage are still responsible for the fixed fee charge. This fee does not cover the entire fixed cost to provide service; the remainder is recovered through energy usage. The Climate Equitable Jobs Act does not allow the City to levy additional charges for interconnected customers even though some of the fixed costs are avoided by a net metering account with a credit for the month.

What happens to my existing energy credits?

Customers with an energy balance will see a credit on the February 2024 utility bill. No kWh credits will be carried forward after Jan. 15, 2024.

Are there any other changes coming in the future?

The changes adopted by the Geneva City Council are a bridge to crediting interconnected customers at the Avoided Costs for energy Received. Until there is 2,000kW of interconnected residential and small commercial systems, all customers on the net metering rate will be credited for Received Energy at the full retail rate. After this 2,000kW threshold is reached, any new interconnected customer will be credited at the Avoided Cost rate for energy received. Customers interconnected before the 2,000kW threshold is reached will continue to be credited at the retail rate until 10 years after the system was first interconnected. After the system's 10th anniversary, the customer will transition to the Avoided Cost for Received Energy.

Why does the City need to transition to an Avoided Cost for Received Energy?

An Avoided Cost rate allows the City to purchase the excess output of a customer-owned PV system at a similar cost as purchasing energy off the market. The Avoided Cost rate reflects only the energy purchased and does not include costs in the rate to build and maintain the lines, substations and other infrastructure in the City. The difference in credits between the Avoided Cost and Full Retail is used to cover the costs of the City's electric utility. By transitioning to an Avoided Cost, the electric utility will better be able to recover the costs of providing services to all City of Geneva customers.

How many more systems will need to be installed to reach the 2,000kW threshold?

Currently the average installed capacity of a customer-owned system is 8.5 kW and as of Jan. 1, 2024, there were 36 interconnected residential and general service customers. Based on these numbers, the City will need to interconnect 200 more customers before the 2,000kW threshold is met.