

FAQs Related to Changes in Net Metering in Illinois: Consumer-Facing

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Illinois Shines Program Administrator
(877) 783-1820 • admin@illinoisshines.com
www.illinoisshines.com

Consumer-Facing Questions

1. What is net metering?

- Net metering credits you for your electricity that your solar project sends to the utility electric grid. If your solar project generates more electricity than you use, the excess electricity flows to the grid and you will receive a credit on your bill for that electricity.

Rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities may limit access to net metering or may offer a different approach for crediting customers for electricity that is sent to the grid.

2. What changes are coming to net metering in Illinois? When can these changes be expected?

- Net metering policies and rates for ComEd, Ameren, and MidAmerican distributed generation (on-site) residential and small commercial solar customers are changing. Full retail rate net metering will no longer be available to residential and small commercial customers net metering customers interconnecting new renewable energy systems after December 31, 2024.

Your utility will “net out” the electricity that your project sends to the grid against the electricity that you pull from the grid. For example, if your solar project sends 400 kWh of extra electricity to the grid, and you use 500 kWh of electricity from the grid, your net usage would be 100 kWh. **You will then only pay supply and transmission charges for that net usage.**

With supply-only net metering, electric delivery charges are no longer included in net metering. This means that customers will pay delivery charges for the entire amount of electricity that they pull from the grid, regardless of how much electricity they send back to the grid. With the above example, you would pay supply and transmission charges for 100 kWh, but you would pay delivery charges for the full 500 kWh pulled from the grid. Your electric bill will also include non-volumetric (not based on kWh used) customer charges and fees.

Customers that have systems installed that are already receiving full retail rate net metering will continue to receive full retail rate net metering for the life of their system, or unless the solar project is modified so extensively that it requires a new interconnection agreement (in ComEd territory) or doubles the nameplate capacity of the project (in Ameren territory).

3. When will net metering changes take place?

- Under Illinois law, customers beginning net metering service on or after January 1, 2025 will receive net metering just for supply charges, rather than the full retail rate net metering. The Agency understands that as a result, ComEd will require customers submit a certificate of completion by December 31, 2024 to be assured full retail rate net metering, and that Ameren will require customers to submit the Witness Test Request by December 31, 2024 to be assured full retail rate net metering. If the submissions are incomplete or have errors, or if they are submitted after 5 PM on December 31, 2024 but before January 1, 2025, the utilities may or may not be able to review and approve net metering before the January 1 deadline. **(Note: this date was updated to December 31, from December 13, on October 4,**

2024). MidAmerican requires that a completed net metering application be submitted prior to January 1, 2025 for the solar project to receive full retail rate net metering.

4. How do I know if I have full retail rate net metering?

- Residential and small commercial customers interconnected to Ameren or ComEd prior to January 1, 2025 who did not request a Distributed Generation Rebate from the utility will continue to have full retail net metering for the life of the system unless material modifications are made. Residential and small commercial customers in MidAmerican territory who submit a net metering application prior to January 1, 2025, will receive full retail rate net metering. If you are unable to determine if you are receiving full retail rate net metering, you may want to check with your utility.

5. If I decide to purchase my leased or PPA Distributed Generation system, will I benefit from full retail rate net metering?

- If the system has been receiving full retail rate net metering prior to January 1, 2025, it will continue to receive full retail rate net metering even if ownership of the project changes.

6. Is my net metering rate affected if I make changes to my system, like adding more panels?

- If your system is enrolled in the legacy full retail rate net metering, meaning it was interconnected prior to January 1, 2025 and you did not request a DG (also called “Smart Inverter”) rebate with the utility, the net metering rate will change if the system is modified under the following circumstances:
 - For ComEd, changes to the system that require a new interconnection application
 - For Ameren, an increase to the system’s nameplate capacity of more than 100%

7. What is the difference between the full retail net metering rate and the new net metering rate?

- Customers enrolled in net metering on or after January 1, 2025, will only receive supply credits, meaning that customers whose systems send excess energy to the grid will be compensated at a lower rate per kilowatt-hour than those already enrolled in net metering.

8. Will the net metering changes affect the amount of savings I see from installation of solar at my home or business?

- If your system was fully interconnected and receiving full retail rate net metering prior to December 31, 2024, and did not receive a Distributed Generation or Smart Inverter rebate from the utility, the amount of savings will not be affected unless material changes are made to the system.

Customers whose project is approved for net metering after December 31, 2024 will be enrolled to the new net metering rates and will only receive supply credits.

9. *Where can more information from each utility on net metering changes be found?*

- ComEd:
 - General Net Metering Information: <https://www.comed.com/smart-energy/my-green-power-connection/developers-contractors/net-metering>
 - Changes to Net Metering: https://azure-na-assets.contentstack.com/v3/assets/blt3ebb3fed6084be2a/blt81f54d30b184ae59/66630a42613ade000a0858cd/ComEd_2025-Changes-To-NetMetering.pdf
- Ameren:
 - General Net Metering Information: <https://www.ameren.com/illinois/residential/supply-choice/renewables/net-metering>
- MidAmerican:
 - General Net Metering Information: <https://www.midamericanenergy.com/customer-interconnection#IllinoisApp>