



Frequently Asked Net Energy Billing Questions

1. Does Central Maine Power Company offer grants to customers who install a renewable energy generator under the net metering program?

No, CMP does not have any grants available to customers who install a renewable energy generator. Efficiency Maine at 1-866-376-2463 or www.energymaine.com may be able to provide you with information about what programs are available through the State of Maine or Federal government. You might also check with the IRS and the Maine Tax Service to see whether your generator would qualify for any tax deductions or tax credits.

2. If I install a renewable generator, will I be able to net meter?

Yes, if the generator meets all of the qualifications under Chapter 313 CMP is required to sign a Customer Net Energy Billing Agreement (“CNEBA”) with a customer who installs a renewable energy generator and elects to net meter. Under a CNEBA, you will only be billed for your net monthly usage in accordance with the current net metering rule and receive a credit for any kWh that you generate that is in excess of your monthly usage. This excess kWh credit may be “banked” for application against future electric usage.

3. If I bank kWh during a billing cycle, will my electric bill be zero?

No, even if you bank excess kWh or your net kWh usage is zero, you will still be required to pay the minimum CMP delivery charge for your rate class. Net energy billing only applies to kWh charges and not anything considered a fixed charge.

4. Will CMP pay me for the excess kWh generated by my renewable generator under a CNEBA?

No. State law prohibits CMP from paying for electricity therefore CMP does not buy excess kWh generated from the net metering customer’s facility. Generated kWh will be applied against the kWh that you have drawn from the system during the billing cycle. This will reduce the amount of energy that you buy from your electric supplier and will reduce the delivery charges. If your kWh generation exceeds your usage over the monthly billing cycle, the unused kWh will be “banked”. Banked kWh credits may be withdrawn from the bank and netted against usage in a subsequent billing cycle. The kWh credits are withdrawn from the bank on a first in, first out basis. Any kWh credits will remain in the bank for up to 12 monthly billing cycles. Grandfathered systems (i.e. systems with operational or in-service dates on or before April 30, 2018) will maintain a single bank that will be applied to both the delivery and the supply charges of the bill. Systems that become operational on or after May 1, 2018 can have two banks; one for the delivery and one for the supply portions of the bill. See examples under question 19.

5. Will I lose the banked kWh if I do not use them in a year?

Yes, the CNEBA employs a rolling 12-month period for the bank. At the conclusion of each monthly billing cycle, CMP will remove from the bank any unused kWh credits that have reached their 12-month expiration. For example, unused kWh credits banked in June of 2017 must be used by June of 2018. If not, they will expire and be removed from the bank.

6. How big can the generator be and still qualify for a CNEBA?

Chapter 313 requires a generator to be less than or equal to 660 kW_{AC} in capacity. The generator rating is based upon the AC rating of the grid-tie inverter and not the amount of energy that the generator is expected to produce over a given hour.



7. What do I need for an inverter?

A grid-tie inverter that meets the UL 1741 or IEEE 1547 standard is required for parallel operation with the CMP system. Inverters that meet these national standards include protective relay systems that ensure that if CMP's distribution system experiences an outage, then your inverter will shut your system down so that it cannot back-feed into CMP's system.

8. Do I need to notify CMP prior to operating the generator?

Yes, you must sign an Interconnection Agreement with CMP before you operate the generator in parallel with CMP's system. Please refer to the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures also listed on the CMP website for information on how to enter into an Interconnection Agreement <http://www.cmpco.com/YourAccount/puc324.html>

9. Will CMP's meter record all of the generation from my renewable generator?

No if your generator is operational on or before April 30, 2017. Yes for generators operational on or after May 1, 2018. Those systems that become operational prior to May 1, 2018 are grandfathered and allowed to net 100% of their usage with their generation. If your system is grandfathered and your electric usage is less than what your generator is producing, then the excess generation will be recorded by the net "out" meter if you have a dual meter system or cause your meter to go backwards if you have a single net meter.

10. Will I need a permit to install a generator?

You will need to check with your individual town or city to see what is needed to comply with local permitting requirements.

11. Will CMP inspect my setup and charge me for the inspection?

CMP may inspect your installation depending upon the size of the system and the protective device (inverter) that is utilized. There currently is no charge for the inspection. You may also be required to conduct biennial testing and allow CMP to witness the test or access to the test reports or logs. Please refer to the section of the CMP website specific to Chapter 324(see question 8) for current rules and potential changes to the interconnection process.

12. How much notice do I need to give CMP that I am installing a renewable energy generator and intend to sign a CNEBA?

CMP requires a minimum of 30 days notice. This will allow adequate time for the interconnection screening to take place as well as for the exchange of contracts, inspection of your system if deemed necessary, and allow for the metering to be ordered, delivered, and installed on the read date for your account.

13. Does CMP have any information on wind generators or photovoltaic systems?

No, CMP does not provide information on specific types of systems. You should contact either Efficiency Maine or an installer for this type of information.

14. Does CMP have a list of dealer and installers?

No, CMP does not have such a list nor is CMP allowed to make any recommendations.



15. If I have a dual meter can I sign up for eBill and view my usage and generation through Energy Manager?

Yes. Net energy billing customers, like any other retail customer, can sign up for e-Bill and view their usage and generation as long as they sign up through the CMP Energy Manager portal.

16. How do I know how much energy my system generated?

For grandfathered system the CMP meter only records the “net” in or out flow and will not record total usage or total generation. Most grid-tie inverters will calculate and display the total generation produced from a specific system. If the Customer’s inverter does not have this feature the only option the customer may wish to purchase and install a utility grade meter between the generation source and the breaker panel. A newer, non-grandfathered system installed and operational on or after May 1, 2018 is required wire their facility so that CMP records separate gross generation. The gross generation meter will provide most customers with total production. The only exception would be any customer that has DC usage (e.g. a heat pump) that is drawn directly from the generators before the grid tie inverter and CMP’s gross our meter.

17. Can I offset additional accounts with excess energy produced from my generator?

Yes, Chapter 313 allows 10 accounts per net energy billing agreement. The primary or facility account is the account where the generator is located and must be one of the 10. At the customer’s choosing excess credits can be applied based upon cascading or percentage allocation. If cascading is chosen the facility account must be listed first. Any credits available after being applied to the facility account will flow to the Customer’s secondary accounts in the order they have been chosen. If excess energy remains after being applied to all of the Customer’s accounts that excess will reside in a single bank associated with the Facility account. If percentage allocation is chosen credits will be applied to the primary account and secondary accounts by a pre-specified percentage as determined by the owner. The total sum of the account percentages must equal 100%. Regardless of which option is chosen all accounts, both primary and secondary, must be in the account name as associated with the primary account. The other condition is that the accounts must all be read and billed on the same cycle. If the secondary account’s read date is different than the primary account CMP will make the read dates match.



18. How does banked energy work with my secondary accounts if excess energy is allocated by percentage versus cascading?

Excess energy produced during a billing cycle will be calculated, credited and banked based upon the customer’s predetermined allocation order (cascading) or percentages. If energy is deemed in excess of usage at either the primary account or a secondary account during the billing cycle the excess will be banked as described in questions 3, 4 and 5 above. However under percentage allocation excess energy produced and banked will be specific to the account it was originally assigned. The customer may reallocate percentages among accounts no more frequently that once every 3 months. If the customer chooses cascading allocation any banked energy resides with the primary facility account. An example of banking is shown below.

Net Metering % Banking Example

	Outflow	1,400	kWh		Net Energy Credit kWh	Bank or (Billable Usage) kWh
	Name	Acct #	%	Usage kWh		
Primary	Smith, John	999-4598234-001	60%	500	500	340
Secondary	Smith, John	999-0145555-003	40%	500	500	60
			100%	1,000	1,000	400

Net Metering Cascading Banking Example

	Outflow	1400	kWh		Net Energy Credit kWh	Bank or (Billable Usage) kWh
	Name	Acct #		Usage kWh		
Primary	Smith, John	999-4598234-001		500	500	400
Secondary	Smith, John	999-0145555-003		500	500	
				1,000	1,000	



19. I have heard that Chapter 313 now includes a phase out of the T&D credit. How do I know what my T&D credit will be and will it go to zero?

The current rule limits the amount of T&D credit and well as a time period before which the credit goes to zero. The T&D credit is reduced by 10% per year over the period 2018 through 2026. However customer's that install systems during each of those 10 years get the fixed rate for a 15 year grandfathered period. Customers whose system's in-service date is on or before April 30, 2017 will receive 100% of the T&D credit for 15 years (through December 31, 2032) after which will receive 0% T&D credit. Customer's whose in-service date is during the remainder of the calendar year after May 1, 2018 will receive 90% of the T&D credit, 2019 = 80%, etc. Please see the table below for details. Note that the discount only affects the T&D portion of the customer bill. The supply portion of the customer bill can receive full credit.

NEB T&D Credit Grandfathering											No T&D Credit		
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%		
2017													
2018	1												
2019	2	1											
2020	3	2	1										
2021	4	3	2	1									
2022	5	4	3	2	1								
2023	6	5	4	3	2	1							
2024	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
2025	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1					
2026	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
2027	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
2028	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2			
2029	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3			
2030	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4			
2031	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5			
2032	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6			
2033		15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7			
2034			15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8			
2035				15	14	13	12	11	10	9			
2036					15	14	13	12	11	10			
2037						15	14	13	12	11			
2038		T&D Credit = 0						15	14	13	12		
2039								15	14	13			
2040									15	14			
2041										15			
2042											15		

Years shown at the top of the table are indicative of those contracts with an installation date during that year.
Any existing NEB customers in effect prior to 2017 will follow the same schedule as those installed in 2017.

Per MPUC order the start date of the T&D discount (90%) will commence with systems installed between May 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. The T& D credit for systems installed in each respective calendar year after December 31, 2018 will receive the specific discount attributed to the calendar year per Chapter 313; e.g systems installed in calendar year 2026 will only receive 10% of the T&D credit.



20. How does the bank work when the kWh credit is different for the delivery versus the supply pieces of the bill?

The phase down as described in the prior question affects the kWh credit that the customer receives and subsequently the amount banked. Refer to the examples below. Examples 1 and 2 below are based upon a May 1, 2018 in-service date. Example 3 is based upon a 2022 in-service date.

Example 1					
Usage 100 kWh			T&D Credit = 90% or 180 kWh		
Generation 200 kWh			Supply Credit = 100% or 200 kWh		
T&D	Usage	100 kWh	Supply	Usage	100 kWh
	NEB Credit	100 kWh		NEB Credit	100 kWh
	Bank	80 kWh		Bank	100 kWh
Example 2					
Usage 400 kWh			T&D Credit = 90% or 90 kWh		
Generation 100 kWh			Supply Credit = 100% or 100 kWh		
T&D	Usage	400 kWh	Supply	Usage	400 kWh
	NEB Credit	90 kWh		NEB Credit	100 kWh
	Bank	0 kWh		Bank	0 kWh
Example 3					
Usage 100 kWh			T&D Credit = 50% or 100 kWh		
Generation 200 kWh			Supply Credit = 100% or 200 kWh		
T&D	Usage	100 kWh	Supply	Usage	100 kWh
	NEB Credit	100 kWh		NEB Credit	100 kWh
	Bank	0 kWh		Bank	100 kWh

21. What happens after the 15 year grandfather period of the T&D credit?

Customers whose in-service date is prior to May 1, 2018 that measure their usage and generation on a net basis must reconfigure their system so that the utility measures gross metering on both usage and generation. Customers with in-service date after May 1, 2018 have no additional metering requirements. However in all cases, once the 15 year phase-out period is complete the customer will receive 0% of the net or gross output for determining net energy for the Customer's T&D bill and 100% of the output for determining the Customer's supply bill.

22. What is the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Aggregation Option?

One REC is the equivalent of one MWh (or 1,000 kWh) of generation. The REC program is optional for customers who install systems on or after May 1, 2018 or grandfathered customers who rewire their systems to allow CMP to meter gross generation and sign a new CNEBA. The customer will receive 90% of the REC equivalent of the gross generation produced. Per MPUC rules customers that self-generate to serve their own load must meet a 10% RPS or Renewable Portfolio Standard. CMP will accumulate REC produced by these customer's eligible systems and attempt to sell the RECs on the wholesale markets. RECs will be aggregated on a calendar month basis. Any revenue received from such sale will be credit back to the customer once per year after the market closes on the specific calendar year. Payments will be made in approximately July of the following calendar year to the current account holder.