



Frequently Asked Net Energy Billing Questions

1. If I install a renewable generator, will I be able to obtain a Customer Net Energy Billing Agreement?

Yes, if the generator meets all of the qualifications to generate in parallel with our system under Chapter 324 and qualifies as a net metering resource under Chapter 313, CMP will sign both a Customer Net Energy Billing Agreement (“CNEBA”) and Interconnection Agreement (“IA”).

2. What are the differences between the 5 types of net metering agreements?

- a. Single Customer: This type of agreement offsets kWhs and has one owner and one account. These agreements offset kWh charges associated with the customer’s bill.
- b. Single Ownership/Multiple Accounts: This type of agreement offsets kWh and has one owner. These agreements offset kWh charges associated with the customer’s bill. The difference is the single customer is offsetting multiple accounts. All accounts must be in the same name and may share credits using the cascading method or the percentage allocation method.
- c. Shared Financial Interest: This type of agreement offsets kWh however may have multiple account holders with different names. These agreements offset kWh charges associated with the customer’s bill. Each customer must share in the financial interest of the facility through such obligations as described in an ownership agreement, purchase power agreement (“PPA”) or lease agreement. The customer(s) must also provide an affidavit attesting that all customers taking part in the agreement have a financial stake in the facility. All accounts may share credits using the cascading method or the percentage allocation method.
- d. Municipal Customer Contracts: These agreements offset kWh charges associated with the customer’s bill. Two main differences from those listed above. First, all of the accounts that share credit in the facility must be municipal accounts. Second, the facility size may exceed 4.999 MW_{AC}, however, only the first 4.999 MWh/hr registered at the customer meter will be used to offset other accounts. Any energy above 4.999 MWh/hr will be used to reduce system losses. All municipal accounts may share credits using the cascading method or the percentage allocation method.
- e. Tariff Rate Contracts (aka Commercial or Institutional Customers) receive a tariff rate dollar credit. Only non-residential customer accounts qualify to receive the tariff rate bill credit. These customers may share credits to accounts collocated on the same parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land as the facility, using the cascade method or the percentage allocation. Customers participating in this type of arrangement may take the current billed charges to zero. These customers bank dollars rather than kWhs. The MPUC has published the tariff rate for small, medium and large customers through the year 2046. Customers that qualify to receive a bill credit will need a revenue quality meter and customer owned telephone line installed.

4. 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.



5. If I generate more kWh during a billing cycle than I consume, will my electric bill be zero?

No, if the agreement is a kWh crediting type agreement and your current month billable amount is 0 kWh you will still be required to pay non kWh consumption charges for your rate class.

6. Under the Tariff Rate program during a billing cycle can my electric bill be zero?

Yes, if the dollar credit you are entitled to exceeds both your delivery charges and your supply charges.

7. Will CMP pay me for the excess kWh generated by my renewable generator under any of these agreements?

No, CMP does not pay for the excess energy produced from a customer's generator. Customers are allowed to bank unused credits for up to a rolling 12 month period.

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

Yes, the CNEBA employs a rolling 12 month period for the bank regardless of credit type; i.e. kWh or bill credit.

Generated kWh will be applied against the kWh that you have consumed during the billing cycle. This will reduce the amount of energy that you buy from your electric supplier and will reduce the kWh consumption charges. If the kWh generation exceeds your usage over the monthly billing cycle, the unused kWh will be banked. Likewise, if you sign a tariff rate agreement and receive a bill credit the calculated bill credits will be applied to your total bill. If the bill credit exceeds the total charges over the monthly bill cycle, then unused dollars will be banked.

Banked kWh or bill credits may be withdrawn from the bank and netted against usage in a subsequent billing cycle. However, current month's generation will always be applied before banked credits. The kWh or bill credits are withdrawn from the bank on a first in, first out basis. Any kWh or bill credits will remain in the bank on a rolling 12 month billing cycle basis. At the conclusion of each monthly billing cycle, CMP will remove from the bank any unused credits that have reached their 12-month expiration. For example, unused kWh or bill credits banked in June of 2025 must be used by June of 2026. If not, they will be eliminated and removed from the bank.

9. 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.

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

Yes, you must sign an Interconnection Agreement with CMP before you operate any 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>.

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



No if the generator is located behind a customer's usage CMP installs and bills on meter data from a bidirectional net meter which will record both net usage and net outflow. If 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. However, discrete electric generating systems that are located separately from the customers load will record nearly all of the customer generation.

12. Will CMP have to change my meter to provide credit under the net energy billing program?

Most customers that receive kWh credits will not require a meter change. If a customer already has an AMI meter, CMP can reconfigure the meter remotely to provide generation data for billing. If the customer is an opt-out customer who does not want AMI meters installed, CMP will install a bidirectional meter that is capable of measuring usage and generation separately.

Municipal customers who may have generation greater than 4.999 MWh/hr and tariff rate customers who receive a bill credit both require revenue quality meters that record hourly generation. Tariff rate customers will also require a telephone line to enable CMP to download hourly generation on a daily basis.

13. Who is responsible for the costs of the meter(s)?

CMP is responsible for the installation and cost of the meter(s) for standard kWh crediting contracts. The cost for non-standard meters such as those required for tariff rate customers will be the responsibility of the customer. The tariff rate customer is also responsible for the installation of a telephone line and any ongoing costs associated with the telephone line.

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

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

15. 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 for current rules and potential changes to the interconnection process. Customers must submit a Certificate of Completion signed by a certified and/or licensed electrician or local code official indicating the system is set up according to Good Utility Practice and safe to operate.

16. When do I start to receive credit on my bill?

CMP must be in possession of the signature pages of the Customer Net Energy Billing and Interconnection Agreements and a signed and approved Certificate of Completion before we can set the customer up in our billing system. An email notice is sent to the customer granting permission to operate the system.

17. Does CMP have any information on wind, photovoltaic or other types of systems that qualify under Chapter 313?

The types of systems that qualify under Chapter 313 can be found at the following link: [Title 35-A, §3210: Renewable resources](#)



18. 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.

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

The typical CMP meter only records the “net” in or out flow and will not record gross usage or gross generation. Speak with your installer about apps or displays on your inverter that will show you the gross generation.

20. Can I offset additional accounts with excess energy kWh’s produced from my generator?

Yes, pursuant to the net energy billing agreements the customer can choose to have excess credits be applied to additional accounts based upon cascading or percentage allocation. This should be indicated on the Chapter 313 Application.

For single ownership/multiple account contracts all account names need to be the same. The customer must call the CMP Customer Relations Center at 1-800-750-4000 to request this change.

For all other multiple account contracts regardless of crediting type (kWh or bill credit) an initial affidavit must be signed and notarized attesting to financial interest in the facility.

Regardless of which option is chosen, all accounts, both primary and secondary, must be in the same read cycle in order to bill properly. If the secondary account’s read date is different than the primary account CMP will make the read dates match. This may take up to 2 additional bill periods to affect the change.

21. What is the difference in the banking procedure for cascading versus percentage allocation?

- a. Cascading: The bank will be stored on the facility account.
- b. Percentage: Each account that receives a percentage allocation of the generation may create its own bank. Banked energy stays with the respective accounts and cannot be moved among accounts.

22. How do I make modifications to my existing net metering agreement?

Only the customer or their designated Project Sponsor has the authority to request modification to the net metering agreement. The Customer, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Company, in accordance with the provisions of the net metering agreement, may change the contact information which correspondence between the two parties takes place.

The customer or the Project Sponsor must notify the Company of any changes that affect the allocation of credits such as adding or removing accounts, changes to percentage allocation or the allocation order of accounts receiving credit through the cascading method.

23. If I sell my property and move to a new location, can I transfer any banked credits to the new home?



No. Banked credits stay with the facility account from which the energy was produced. If there is a break in ownership where the facility account becomes inactive any banked credits will be lost. The exception to this rule is for customers who have a financial interest in a shared facility, like a solar farm. As long as the customer has a valid Company account, banked credits can be kept by the customer.

24. Can I have battery storage?

The Maine Public Utility Commission's Advisory Ruling dated February 2, 2021 in Docket No. 2020-00332, determined that battery storage can be combined with a renewable fuel or technology. Customers who pair their generating facility with a battery storage need to indicate this on the PUC Chapter 313 application and must follow the rules outlined in the Net Energy Billing Agreement.

25. What reporting is necessary if I have battery storage?

Customers with facilities greater than 100 kW in size that are paired with battery storage, the Customer must submit an annual attestation affirming that the controls necessary to prevent the battery from being charged from the grid remain in place. In the event that a Customer does not provide the annual attestation or is found to have removed or modified the controls such that the battery can be charged from the grid, then (i) the Customer will be deemed ineligible to participate in Net Energy Billing, (ii) CMP may immediately terminate this Agreement without following the Breach provisions set forth in Article XII of this Agreement, and (iii) CMP may require that the Customer refund to CMP the value of credits provided under this Agreement.

26. How is the term of my CNEBA determined?

CNEBA agreements have two periods that comprise the Term of the Agreement. The Construction Period commences on the date the signature pages are received by CMP. The Delivery Period begins on the Commercial Operation date determined by the date CMP approved the Certificate of Completion.

27. Does my CNEBA have a termination date?

All agreements signed pursuant to the Chapter 313 adopted rule in Docket No. 2019-00197 have a 20 year term. The termination date is the 20th anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date. If the agreement is for an existing resource, the effective date does not change unless the original Agreement was signed prior to 2019-00197. Agreements signed prior to 2019-00197 will be given a 20 year term when any modifications are made to the Agreement.

28. Do Street or Area Lights qualify for NEB credits?

Under kilowatt credit programs lights do not qualify for credits.

Under the tariff rate program lights do qualify for credits. The financial credits are valued at the small commercial tariff rate.