

220 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

220 CMR 18.00: NET METERING

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18.01: Purpose and Scope

(1) Purpose. 220 CMR 18.00 establishes regulations governing how Distribution Companies are to provide Net Metering services to Customers consistent with the net metering provisions of Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008, an Act Relative to Green Communities. St. 2008, c. 169, § 78.

(2) Scope. 220 CMR 18.00 applies to all Distribution Companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Department.

18.02: Definitions

The terms set forth in 220 CMR 18.02 shall be defined as follows, unless the context otherwise requires.

Agricultural Net Metering Facility means a Renewable Energy generating facility that is operated as part of an agricultural business, generates electricity, does not have a generation capacity of more than two megawatts, is located on land owned or controlled by the agricultural business, and is used to provide energy to metered accounts of the business. "Agriculture" has the same meaning as provided in M.G.L. c. 128, § 1A; provided that, when necessary, the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources shall determine if a business is an agricultural business and whether the facility is operated as part of that business.

Billing Period means the period of time set forth in a Distribution Company's terms and conditions for which a Distribution Company bills a Customer for its electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed.

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Class I Net Metering Facility means a plant or equipment that is used to produce, manufacture, or otherwise generate electricity and that is not a transmission facility and that has a design capacity of 60 kilowatts or less.

Class II Net Metering Facility means an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt; provided, however, that a Class II Net Metering Facility owned or operated by a Customer which is a municipality or other governmental entity may have a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt per unit.

Class III Net Metering Facility means an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts; provided, however, that a Class III Net Metering Facility owned or operated by a Customer which is a municipality or other governmental entity may have a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts per unit.

Customer means any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity, whether public or private, who obtains distribution service at a customer delivery point and who is a customer of record of the Distribution Company for its own electricity consumption.

Distribution Company means a company engaging in the distribution of electricity or owning, operating or controlling distribution facilities; provided, however, that a distribution company shall not include any entity which owns or operates plant or equipment used to produce electricity, steam and chilled water, or an affiliate engaged solely in the provision of such electricity, steam and chilled water, where the electricity produced by such entity or its affiliate is primarily for the benefit of hospitals and non-profit educational institutions, and where such plant or equipment was in operation before January 1, 1986.

Host Customer means a Customer with a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility that generates electricity on the Customer's side of the meter.

ISO-NE means ISO New England Inc., the independent system operator for New England, or its successor, authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate the New England bulk power system and administer New England's organized wholesale electricity market pursuant to the ISO-NE Tariff and operation agreements with transmission owners.

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Neighborhood means a geographic area within a municipality, subject to the right of the Department to grant exceptions pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(6), that:

- (a) is recognized by the residents as including a unique community of interests;
- (b) falls within the service territory of a single Distribution Company and within a single ISO-NE load zone; and
- (c) may encompass residential, commercial, and undeveloped properties.

Neighborhood Net Metering Facility means a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility that:

- (a) is owned by, or serves the energy needs of, a group of ten or more residential Customers that reside in a single Neighborhood and are served by a single Distribution Company;
- (b) may also be owned by, or serve the energy needs of, other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood and are served by the same Distribution Company as the residential Customers that own or are served by the facility; and
- (c) is located within the same Neighborhood as the Customers that own or are served by the facility.

Net Metering means the process of measuring the difference between electricity delivered by a Distribution Company and electricity generated by a Class I, Class II, Class III or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility and fed back to the Distribution Company.

Renewable Energy means energy generated from any source that qualifies as a Class I or Class II Renewable Energy generating source under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 11F; provided, however, that after conducting administrative proceedings, the Department of Energy Resources, in consultation with the Department of Agricultural Resources, may add technologies or technology categories.

Solar Net Metering Facility means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

Wind Net Metering Facility means a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses wind to generate electricity and is interconnected to a Distribution Company.

18.03: Net Metering Services

(1) Each Distribution Company shall provide services to Customers and Host Customers necessary to permit Net Metering, including those related to interconnection, metering and calculation and billing of Net Metering credits, as specified in the Distribution Company's Net Metering tariffs pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(2) and 220 CMR 18.09(3).

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(2) Each Distribution Company shall be prohibited from imposing special fees on a Host Customer with a Class I Net Metering Facility such as backup charges and demand charges, or additional controls or liability insurance, provided that the facility meets the other requirements of the interconnection tariff, and all relevant safety and power quality standards.

(3) Each Distribution Company shall calculate a Net Metering credit as set forth in 220 CMR 18.04, and not bill a Host Customer for kilowatt-hour usage, for any Billing Period in which the kilowatt-hours generated by a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility or a Neighborhood Net Metering Facility exceed the kilowatt-hour usage of the Host Customer.

(4) Each Distribution Company shall bill a Host Customer for excess consumption for any Billing Period in which the kilowatt-hours consumed by a Host Customer exceed the kilowatt-hours generated by a Class I, II or III Net Metering Facility or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility.

18.04: Calculation of Net Metering Credits

(1) For a Class I Wind Net Metering Facility, Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, Class I Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Class II Net Metering Facility, and Class III Net Metering Facility where the Host Customer is a municipality or other governmental entity, each Distribution Company shall calculate for each Billing Period a Net Metering credit equal to the product of the:

- (a) excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use if applicable; and
- (b) sum of the following Distribution Company charges applicable to the rate class under which the Host Customer takes service:
 - 1. the default service kilowatt-hour charge (in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located);
 - 2. the distribution kilowatt-hour charge;
 - 3. the transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
 - 4. the transition kilowatt-hour charge.

(2) For a Class I Net Metering Facility other than a Class I Wind Net Metering Facility, Class I Agricultural Net Metering Facility, or a Class I Solar Net Metering Facility, each Distribution Company shall calculate a Net Metering credit for each Billing Period as the product of the:

- (a) excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use if applicable; and
- (b) average monthly clearing price at the ISO-NE.

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(3) For a Neighborhood Net Metering Facility or a Class III Net Metering Facility where the Host Customer is not a municipality or governmental entity, each Distribution Company shall calculate a Net Metering credit for each Billing Period as the product of the:

- (a) excess kilowatt-hours, by time-of-use if applicable; and
- (b) sum of the following Distribution Company charges applicable to the rate class under which the Host Customer takes service:
 1. the default service kilowatt-hour charge (in the ISO-NE load zone where the Host Customer is located);
 2. the transmission kilowatt-hour charge; and
 3. the transition kilowatt-hour charge.

(4) The calculation of Net Metering credits under 220 CMR 18.04 shall not include the demand side management and renewable energy kilowatt-hour charges set forth in M.G.L. c. 25, §§ 19 through 20.

(5) For any Billing Period for which a Distribution Company calculates a Net Metering credit for a Host Customer, the Distribution Company shall apply the Net Metering credit to the Host Customer's account for the subsequent Billing Period, unless the Host Customer provides otherwise pursuant to 220 CMR 18.05. The Distribution Company shall carry forward, from Billing Period to Billing Period, any remaining Net Metering credit balance.

18.05: Allocation of Net Metering Credits

(1) For a Class I or II Wind Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Agricultural Net Metering Facility; Class III Net Metering Facility; or Neighborhood Net Metering Facility, each Distribution Company shall allocate Net Metering credits as designated in writing by the Host Customer, to other Customers who are in the Distribution Company's service territory and are located in the same ISO-NE load zone. The manner and form of credit designation shall be as specified in the Distribution Company's Net Metering Tariff pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(2).

(2) For a Neighborhood Net Metering Facility, the Distribution Company may only allocate Net Metering credits to residential or other Customers who reside in the same Neighborhood in which the Neighborhood Net Metering Facility is located and have an ownership interest in, or are served by, the Neighborhood Net Metering Facility.

(3) The Distribution Company shall carry forward, from Billing Period to Billing Period, any remaining Net Metering credit balance.

(4) For a Class III Net Metering Facility, a Distribution Company may elect to pay to the Host Customer Net Metering credits rather than allocating such credits pursuant to 220 CMR 18.05(1).

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18.06: Eligibility for Net Metering

Distribution Companies shall not provide Net Metering services to a Host Customer who is an electric company, generation company, aggregator, supplier, energy marketer, or energy broker, as those terms are used in M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 1 and 1F and 220 CMR 11.00.

18.07: Net Metering Capacity

Each Distribution Company shall make Net Metering services available to Host Customers such that the aggregate capacity of Class I, II, III, and Neighborhood Net Metering Facilities does not exceed 1% of the Distribution Company's highest historical peak load. Each Distribution Company shall identify on an annual basis its highest historical peak load and post that data on its website by February 1 of the following year. For the purpose of calculating the aggregate capacity of Class I, II, III, and Neighborhood Net Metering Facilities, the capacity of a:

- (1) Solar Net Metering Facility shall be 80% of the facility's direct current rating at standard test conditions; and
- (2) Wind Net Metering Facility shall be the nameplate rating.

18.08: Net Metering Reports

- (1) Each Distribution Company shall track at least the following:
 - (a) the size, generation type, Net Metering class, fuel type, and the municipality within which each Net Metering facility receives Net Metering services;
 - (b) the size, generation type, fuel type, and the municipality within which each Net Metering facility has requested interconnection with the Distribution Company; and
 - (c) the aggregate capacity of Net Metering facilities that have interconnected, and that have requested interconnection, to the Distribution Company.
- (2) Each Distribution Company shall file with the Department information regarding the provision of Net Metering services to its Customers, in a format and according to a schedule as determined by the Department.
- (3) Each Distribution Company shall post data to a publicly accessible website tracking the aggregate capacity of eligible Net Metering facilities that have connected, and that have requested interconnection, relative to the Net Metering capacity set forth in 220 CMR 18.07. The data shall be updated on a monthly basis.

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18.09: Miscellaneous

- (1) The provision of Net Metering services does not entitle Distribution Companies to ownership of, or title to, the renewable energy or environmental attributes, including renewable energy certificates, associated with any electricity produced by a Net Metering facility.
- (2) Each Distribution Company shall implement its responsibilities and obligations regarding the provision of Net Metering services to Customers and Host Customers pursuant to a Department-approved tariff.
- (3) Each Distribution Company shall implement its responsibilities and obligations regarding the provision of interconnection services to Customers and Host Customers pursuant to a Department-approved tariff.
- (4) Each Distribution Company shall be allowed to recover the aggregate of the distribution portion of any Class I, II, or III Net Metering credits and the Distribution Company delivery charges displaced by a Class I, II or III Net Metering Facility through a uniform per kilowatt-hour surcharge or surcharges billed to all of its Customers on an annual basis.
- (5) Nothing in 220 CMR 18.00 is intended in any way to limit eligibility for Net Metering services based upon a third-party ownership or financing agreement related to a Net Metering facility, where Net Metering services would otherwise be available.
- (6) The Department may, where appropriate, grant an exception from any provision of 220 CMR 18.00.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

220 CMR 18.00: St. 2008, c. 169, § 78.