

## Rate 980 FAQ

### *What is Rate 980 Alt-B?*

Rate 980 Alt-B is a rate option for customers with a DG (Distributed Generation) system that wish to interconnect to the grid, but not participate in Eversource's Renewable Energy Solutions incentive programs. The tariff detailing this rate is on our website [here](#).

### *How does Rate 980 Alt-B work?*

Customers on Rate 980 Alt-B are charged for all electricity imported from the grid. Separately, they are credited for any solar production exported to the grid. Note the imports/exports are NOT netted on a monthly basis. The credits for production exported to the grid are calculated at a price per kWh near the wholesale rate. This is typically less than the full retail supply & delivery rates the customer would be charged for the electricity they consume from the grid.

### *What is the Rate 980 Alt-B credit value?*

ISO-NE posts the historical simple monthly averages of the hourly zonal and Hub locational marginal prices (LMPs) [here](#). Note the reports include prices for all of New England, but only the CT prices are relevant for CT projects.

### *Why am I on Rate 980?*

If the customer or installer applied to interconnect the project without participation in Eversource's Renewable Energy Solutions programs, then the project would be interconnecting and billing on Rate 980. To ensure residential customers and installers are educated on their Rate 980 selection at application submission, Eversource sends an email with information on Rate 980 vs. the Renewable Energy Solutions program.

### *What are the alternatives to Rate 980?*

There are two alternatives depending on whether the project is Residential vs. Non-Residential:

**Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) Program** – The RRES Program is a Connecticut incentive program for solar and other renewable energy, which launched in 2022. Through this program customers can sell power generated and any renewables energy certificates (RECs) to Eversource. Please visit the [Connecticut Residential Solar Incentives](#) page for more info.

**Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) Program** – The NRES Program is a Connecticut incentive program that can help you offset the cost of the electricity you buy from Eversource with the energy you generate with non-residential solar or other Connecticut Class I renewable technologies. This

program replaced the Low and Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit Program. Please visit the [Connecticut Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions](#) page for more info.

*How does Rate 980 Alt-B compare to RRES for a residential customer?*

	RRES Netting*	Rate 980 Alt-B
How are customers credited for energy exported to the grid?	Exported production is netted with your usage each month, and any net excess production is credited on your billing account to be used in future months.	Exported energy is NOT netted with usage. Instead, all exports are credited on your bill each month.
What rate are credits calculated at?	Net excess production is credited at the retail rate.	All exports are credited at the wholesale rate.
Who owns the RECs?	Eversource is assigned REC rights for all RRES projects. In return, Eversource pays a designated payee a quarterly REC incentive at a fixed rate for the 20-year RRES term. See the RRES website for current REC incentive rates.	The system owner retains REC rights.
Are there fees to participate?	In addition to the standard interconnection fees, there is a \$129 application fee and a production meter fee (see the website for current meter fees).	Standard interconnection fees are required.
Who is the ideal candidate for the program?	A typical residential customer who wants to bank credits for excess production that can be used on future bills.	A customer who does not plan to export much production (instead is using it all onsite or stored in batteries), and who wants to retain their REC rights.

*\*Note the above comparison is for RRES Netting, which is the more common RRES incentive structure. There is also RRES Buy-All, which is detailed on our [website](#).*

*Am I still enrolled in a Renewable Energy Solutions program if I am on Rate 980?*

No, a customer cannot be enrolled in both simultaneously. When a customer/installer elects to move forward with Rate 980, they relinquish any participation in either RRES or NRES. This means that they will not receive any on-bill credits for excess generation, nor will they be eligible to receive REC (Renewable Energy Certificate) incentive payments through Eversource.

*Why are there so many adjustments on my bill?*

Rate 980 is a manual billing process. When the customer's net meter is read, the meter registers the kWh of electricity coming to and from the grid. Eversource's billing system automatically nets the production versus usage, however these values should not be netted per the Rate 980 tariff. Therefore, our billing group must go in and remove any excess generation credits from the customer's billing account, so the customer is charged for all energy from the grid. Then subsequent adjustments are added to the account to credit the account for all energy exported to the grid at the Rate 980 credit value. For some customers, depending on their preferred method of billing this will generate a second statement, showing the adjustments. That second bill is the correct one and the first can be disregarded.

*If I am on Rate 980 will I still receive the quarterly payments for my production?*

No. The quarterly REC incentive payments are only relevant for customers participating in a Renewable Energy Solutions program. For Rate 980 projects, the system owner retains the rights to their RECs and can choose to sell them independently on the REC market.

*What is the benefit of Rate 980 Alt-B if there are no RRES or NRES incentives?*

Potential benefits include:

- Customers could install systems that do not meet criteria for RRES or NRES. For example,
  - RRES includes eligibility criteria around system sizing, including a size-to-load requirement and 25 kW AC system size cap.
  - NRES includes a bidding process that occurs twice a year, and projects must be selected prior to receiving permission to interconnect from Eversource.
- System Owners retain REC rights.
- Customers who do not plan to export production may not feel the adverse effects of the Rate 980 credit rate (wholesale) compared to the Renewable Energy Solutions credit rate (retail for Netting, or a fixed rate for Buy-All).
  - Residential customers typically do export electricity, so are less likely to select Rate 980.
  - Commercial customers may be more likely to use all production onsite (without exporting any to the grid) or to install a large storage system that allows them to not export.

*What if I have more questions?*

If you have more specific questions relating to your account/project that were not covered here, please contact the residential team at [CTResirenewables@eversource.com](mailto:CTResirenewables@eversource.com) or the non-residential team at [ctcommrenewables@eversource.com](mailto:ctcommrenewables@eversource.com).