



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

FACTSHEET: RULES ON NET METERING (AS OF JULY 2013)

Under Massachusetts law and the Department of Public Utilities' ("DPU") regulations, customers of electric distribution companies (utilities that are listed in No. 8 below) may generate electricity and offset usage, thereby reducing their bills. This process is called net metering, and this factsheet highlights some rules that customers must follow to be eligible for net metering.

1. **Your facility must not exceed the capacity requirements for net metering facilities.** The net metering facilities of private entities cannot exceed 2.0 megawatts ("MW") (AC) of nameplate capacity. The net metering facilities of public entities cannot exceed 10.0 MW (AC) of nameplate capacity. A net metering facility is defined as the generating capacity located on a single parcel of land, at a single interconnection point, with a single meter. Your generating capacity includes all generating equipment, both old and new, that is interconnected and metered as the net metering facility, and you may not designate part of your facility for net metering.

Your utility may grant an exception for more meters or interconnection points if it would represent optimal interconnection, but otherwise, your net metering facility must conform to these capacity requirements. Contact your utility as early as possible if you plan to seek net metering services for your facility.

2. **There are special requirements for the net metering facilities of public entities.** To become the Host Customer or to receive net metering credits from the net metering facility of a public entity, you must obtain a Public Entity ID number from the DPU using a form available at: www.mass.gov/dpu/netmetering.
3. **You must file an Application for Cap Allocation ("ACA") for each net metering facility.** Because there is a cap on net metering facilities, you must submit an ACA with the System of Assurance of Net Metering Eligibility (sometimes called the net metering "queue") at: www.MassACA.org.

Certain small net metering facilities are exempt from this requirement. Small net metering facilities need not file an ACA if: (1) they are renewable, per [G.L. c. 25A, § 11F](#); and (2) their nameplate capacity is equal to or less than: (a) 10 kilowatts ("kW") on a single-phase circuit, or (b) 25 kW on a three-phase circuit.

Warning: The net metering caps are filling up, so don't delay! You should start and submit an ACA as early as you can (see No. 4 below). Once a net metering cap is full, your generating facility will be waitlisted or ineligible for net metering. However, once your ACA is approved,

you will have a limited amount of time to complete the project. Updates on remaining capacity for each cap can be found at: www.MassACA.org.

4. **ACA Requirements.** You may start an ACA at any time, but to submit an ACA for approval, you will need, at a minimum: (1) an executed Interconnection Service Agreement (“ISA”) (i.e., “executed” means that it has been signed by you and your utility); (2) site control; (3) all necessary governmental permits and approvals to construct the facility, with the exception of ministerial permits (i.e., building permit, etc.); and (4) an application fee of \$100. Until further notice, “Early ISAs” are not sufficient for filing an ACA.
5. **To allocate net metering credits to other accounts, you must submit Schedule Z.** Only the Host Customer can allocate net metering credits. To allocate net metering credits, the Host Customer must submit a copy of Schedule Z to the utility. Schedule Z is available on the utility’s website. The Host Customer can revise its Schedule Z at any time but no more than twice in any one calendar year. For more details, consult D.P.U. 11-10-A at 28-29.
6. **Entities excluded from net metering.** The following entities cannot be net metering customers: an electric utility, a generation company, an aggregator, a competitive electricity supplier, an energy marketer or an energy broker. See G.L. c. 164, § 139(e).
7. **Failure to follow all net metering rules.** If you fail to follow any net metering rule, including but not limited to those provided above, your facility will be ineligible to receive net metering services. More resources can be found on the DPU’s website at: www.mass.gov/dpu/netmetering.
8. Your utility also has net metering information on its website:

National Grid: www.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/home/energyeff/4_net-mtr.asp

NSTAR: www.nstar.com/business/rates_tariffs/netmetering-faq.asp

Unitil: www.unitil.com/energy-for-residents/electric-information/distributed-energy-resources/net-metering

WMECo: www.wmeco.com/residential/understandbill/ratesrules/netmetering.aspx