



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**green power  
connection**  
New Jersey

**We support renewable energy and partner with our customers to ensure safe and reliable interconnection of renewable energy into the electric grid.**

## Net Energy Metering FAQs

**What is Net Energy Metering (NEM)?** Customers who generate their own electricity with renewable energy sources to interconnect with the electric grid and receive bill credits for excess generation. A special net-capable meter measures the energy a customer uses off the grid and the excess generation the renewable system provides onto the grid, and calculates the difference or “net”.

**What is Green Power Connection?** Green Power Connection™ (GPC) is our process for facilitating small generator interconnections and NEM requests. Our dedicated team of consultants and account coordinators manage the customer’s experience – from processing applications to resolving issues – for residential and smaller commercial interconnection projects.

**What is a net-capable meter?** A net-capable meter measures energy that flows in both directions between the customer-generator and the electric grid.

**What technologies qualify for net energy metering?** Small generator technologies that qualify for interconnection with our system include solar (photovoltaic or “PV”), wind and biomass. See our GPC website for more details.

**When do I start the interconnection application process?** Prior to installing and operating a generating system, you must apply and receive ACE’s written approval. For more details, refer to the *Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnection Application Checklist* found on our website.

**Are customers with third party energy suppliers eligible?** Yes.

**Do I have to interconnect my generator system to the grid?** Most customers install renewable generator systems to reduce their use of utility-supplied electricity. For these behind-the-meter systems to be able to draw energy off the grid when needed, the system must be interconnected to a utility-supplied, net-capable meter. You must apply for this interconnection.

**Does the net-capable meter measure total generation?** No. Generation occurs on the customer side of the meter. Any energy generated is first fed inside the premise for use by the appliances, electronics, lights, etc. The meter measures only the excess energy that is fed onto the grid.

**How does the meter show when energy is fed or received?** A smart net energy meter has dashes under the display that move in the direction of the energy flow. When the dashes move from left to right, energy is flowing from the grid to the customer’s premise. When the dashes move from right to left, energy is flowing from the customer to the grid.

For more information contact  
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Energy for a changing world.™

Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnections

## Application and System FAQs

**How do I start the application process?** Prior to installing and operating a generating system, you must apply and receive ACE's approval. Review the *Net Energy Metering and Small Generator Interconnection Application Checklist* on our website.

**How is my application fee determined?** Fees are established by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and vary according to the generator system's nameplate capacity. See our website for a table of the fees in New Jersey.

**Why could my interconnection application be delayed or denied?** Applications are delayed if required information is incomplete or missing, documents are unsigned or a fee payment is not included. In some regions, ACE may not have an open circuit, making net metering interconnection unavailable. Refer to our website for more details.

**How is the size of the renewable system determined?** The size of the renewable system is determined by dividing the total energy consumption (in kWh) from the past 12 months by 1,200. The alternating current (AC) inverter rating has to be equal to or less than that number. We use this formula to comply with state rules, meet all or part of your electrical needs, and follow our regulatory requirements.

**What is the maximum size of a renewable generating system that I can install?** Customers who install a renewable generating system can offset all or part of the energy they use from ACE. Interconnection capacity restrictions vary among states and jurisdictions. In New Jersey, the system capacity can be up to 100% of your 12-month historical energy consumption.

**How can I see how much energy my system generates?** Your system's installer can provide details on obtaining a generation monitoring device compatible with your system.

**Will my system generate power during a utility power outage?** For safety reasons, the system's inverter tied to the grid will shut down automatically with an outage. The inverter converts direct current (DC) power from the renewable generator into alternating current (AC) power used at your premise. Only systems designed to operate independently during an outage will be able to operate. A system designed in this fashion must be clearly identified on the interconnection application and agreement. A single-line diagram showing the equipment and controls necessary to operate safely when isolated must accompany the application.

**If I have new construction project that will incorporate a renewable generating system, can I interconnect?** Yes. For a facility that is under construction and requires electricity, you will need to set up electric service prior to installing the generation system. Without any historical

energy consumption data, the interconnection application will require a proposed energy usage calculator. For more details, visit our GPC website.

**I want to install a large generation facility and sell power directly to the grid. Do I work with the GPC team? No.** Another department within ACE administers these large wholesale power purchase agreements. The GPC team will be glad to refer you to that department.

## NEM Billing FAQs

**How is excess generation shown on my utility bill?** New Jersey customers would see negative energy consumption in the *Details of Your Energy Charges* section of the bill, showing excess carryover history. The excess is carried over month to month until used or until the customer's anniversary pay out.

**Why does my bill still show charges, if I had excess generation credits?** Customer charges apply to all bills, regardless of energy charges or excess generation credits. If the service charges are more than the generation credits, your account would show a balance due. For more details, visit our GPC website.

## Other FAQs

**Are there other factors to consider?** Yes. Electric generation from solar sources can fluctuate as a result of several factors — clouds, darkness, snow-covered or dirty panels all limit generation. Your renewable system may not generate enough energy to meet all of your electrical needs. Prior to installation, understand how your system will operate under varying conditions, and how these conditions can impact your utility bill.

**Can I operate my generation facility prior to receiving the final written Authorization to Operate?** The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities prohibits the interconnection of generation facilities to the electric grid without ACE's written approval. Operating an unauthorized small generator system tied to our grid can:

- Endanger utility workers, who will not have a record of the system
- Pose a safety risk to the customer, system components, facility, and general public
- Cause voltage overload problems on the grid, preventing safe and reliable electric service
- Lead to a cease-and-desist notification
- Lead to disconnection of electric service

**Can you recommend a reputable installer?** No. We recommend you research and consult with an installer or contractor by using publically available resources. If you decide to work with a contractor, you are responsible to ensure they are using the appropriate forms, fees, and documentation throughout the interconnection process.