

NET METERING POLICY

Reduce your use by harnessing the wind or the sun.....

An Overview of Empire Electric's Solar/Wind Net Metering Tariff

In response to member requests for a simplified interconnection process, the Empire Electric board of directors approved a tariff in June 2006 designed for residential and commercial consumers using solar and/or wind as a renewable energy source. This new tariff sets forth rules for a consumer of Empire to generate electricity from solar or wind up to 10 kilowatts and to interconnect that generation with Empire's distribution system.

The tariff consists of explicit interconnection requirements which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The use of an approved inverter that automatically removes the generation during abnormal system conditions to protect the equipment, other members and Empire workers.
2. Empire allows the member to offset consumption at the retail rate over the course of the year.
3. Net generation will be paid at the end of the year at the average cost of power Empire pays to Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
4. The member agrees to be billed monthly on an estimated levelized kWh basis including an offset for the estimated annual generation.
5. The member agrees to maintain homeowners insurance with at least \$300,000 in coverage for liability.

Funding Possibilities

Federal Tax Credits are offered on:

- Systems placed in service from 1/1/06 to 12/31/07 (Recently extended to 12/31/2008)
- 30% tax credit up to a maximum of \$2,000 for residential installation
- 30% tax credit with no cap for commercial installation

USDA Rural Development has many loans and grants available for farmers, ranchers and small rural businesses under the 2005 energy bill that promote the use of renewable energy.

See more at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmland/index.html>

See the **State of Colorado's** funding possibilities at:

<http://www.state.co.us/oemc/programs/renewable/solaraccess.htm>

State of Utah might offer:

- Tax Credit 25% up to \$2,000 for individuals
- Tax Credit 10% up to maximum of \$50,000 for commercial system

These credits officially expired on 12/31/2006. Utah legislature passed an extension of this in February 2007, it is pending the Governor's signature.

Contact: http://geology.utah.gov/sep/incentives/re_credits2007.htm