



So you have questions about...

Interconnection & Net Metering

Resources & Technical Assistance

First in a series of Policy Basics





Interconnection and **net metering** are found to be integral to supporting distributed generation markets. Interconnection policies have been adopted in 43 states, Washington D. C., and Puerto Rico, while 43 states, Washington D.C., and 4 territories have adopted net metering policies.

Interconnection standards detail the conditions under which distributed generation is allowed to connect to the utility grid. These standards are intended to provide guidelines to ensure utility safety while reducing costs and delays for distributed generation projects. Additional information on background, resources, and technical assistance can be found below.

Net metering policies provide a mechanism by which a utility customer, generating energy primarily for customer use, receives value for energy produced that exceeds the customer's usage. Both interconnection and net metering policies typically differentiate between smaller generation projects and larger, utility-scale projects.

Background

Benchmarking Non-Hardware Balance-of-System (Soft) Costs for U.S. Photovoltaic Systems, Using a Bottom-up Approach and Installer Survey – Second Edition. *Provides background on the importance of interconnection issues.*

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy14osi/60412.pdf>

Strategic Sequencing for State Distributed PV Policies: A Quantitative Analysis of Policy Impacts and Interactions *Illustrates the importance of interconnection and net metering as foundational policies for increased PV distributed generation.* <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/56428.pdf>

Connecting to the Grid: A Guide to Distributed Generation Interconnection Issues.

http://www.irecusa.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ConnectDocs/Connecting_to_the_Grid_Guide_6th_edition-1.pdf

Resources

Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE). *A comprehensive source of information on incentives and policies that support renewables and energy efficiency in the United States.* <http://www.dsireusa.org>

Freeing the Grid. *This website provides information on current state and local interconnection and net metering policies, which have been statistically connected to increased distributed generation within jurisdictions (Krasko and Doris 2012).* <http://freeingthegrid.org/>

Technical Assistance

NREL's Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) is a team of solar technology and deployment experts who ensure that the best information on policies, regulations, financing, and other issues is getting into the hands of state government decision-makers at the time they need it. For more information, please visit: http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/stat.html

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NREL/MK-7A30-62351 • July 2014

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