



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the INTERCONNECTION of RENEWABLES

What is the process to Interconnect with SEC?

Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) requires a completed interconnection application to be submitted along with the applicable application fee. The interconnect application is available on our website at www.socorroelectric.com, under “Services”, “Renewable Energy”, then select “Interconnect Program”. For a system above 10kW contact SEC for an application.

Upon our receipt, review, and approval of the application, you will receive a notice from us. Your contractor/electrician will request an electrical inspection with the State of New Mexico. Once the state inspection is complete, SEC will receive a notice of inspection and electrical permit from the state. SEC WILL NOT set the CO-GEN NET meter at the site, until we receive the inspection notice from the state. Once the electrical permit is received by SEC, we will schedule an appointment to inspect your system and install the CO-GEN NET Meter.

What are the application fees?

The application fees are as follows: for a system under 10kW the fee is \$50.00, for a system between 10kW-100kW the fee is \$100.00 plus the cost of an Initial PV screen and Supplemental Review to be conducted by SEC’s consultant. Anything over 100kW would be \$100.00 plus an additional \$1.00 per kW over 100kW and plus the cost of an Initial PV screen and Supplemental Review to be conducted by SEC’s consultant. Contact SEC metering department to acquire the fees for an impact study assessment.

What are the factors in determining the size of system (kW) I can install?

Typically, the residential systems are sized to offset your current energy consumption. We can provide you a printout showing your last 12-month history, and the contractor you are working with can use that to determine the size of system that would be best for you.

If a member is interested in a Production Size System, we do have legal limitations that would not allow a system over a certain size, which is around 1.5MW. There is a lot more involved, and if someone is interested, we would have to set up a meeting.

What benefit might I receive if I generate more energy than I use?

Each month we will get the readings from the CO-GEN NET Meter that is installed at the location of the system. This meter registers the amount of electricity, we deliver to you (DEL), and we receive (REC) from your installation. Anytime you produce more energy than you use, you will receive a credit for the NET difference. If you use more energy than you produce, you will be billed for the NET difference. Regardless of what you produce, you are still billed the system charge and the associated taxes and fees that apply. Per NMPRC, we are required to issue you a check when the energy credit from Net Metering reaches \$50.00.

What is the current rate SEC is paying for excess energy generated?

SEC is purchasing the excess energy produced at our Avoided Cost Rate Please SEC rate schedule for the current cost. This rate changes in January of each year and is based on kWh sales and kWh purchases from our power supplier.

Many owners of the interconnected systems are discouraged when they find out that SEC does not pay the retail rate for the excess energy they produce. The NMPRC only requires electric co-ops to pay avoided cost for the energy received from Interconnect member. Avoided Cost means what the co-op would pay for that energy if it was purchased from the Wholesale Power Provider, and not from the Interconnect member. SEC feels strongly that we cannot force other members to subsidize the cost of renewable energy and the members who choose to participate.

Can I purchase equipment (i.e., solar panels, electrical panels, wire) through the co-op to lower my cost?

We do not sell equipment for any renewable source installations.

Would it be safe to assume that the Simplified Interconnection Application (PRC Rule 568) would apply to my system?

Most of the Interconnected Facilities on our system have been approved through the Simplified Interconnect Process. There is a flow chart in the application, to qualify for Simplified Interconnect Process your system must meet all criteria.

What are the costs for this service and equipment?

SEC will charge if your service line needs to be upgraded and would be able to give you an estimate of cost after a site visit is complete. SEC does not charge you for the transformer upgrade. The CO-GEN NET Meter is no cost because it remains property of SEC.