



## Grow Solar Wisconsin Issue Brief- Net Energy Billing

Net energy billing (or net metering) allows utility customers to install and operate renewable generating systems for their own use, and receive full retail value for electricity not consumed on site (up to 100% of their usage).

### Problem

Net energy billing lacks a statutory framework. The only venue for addressing policy changes is the individual utility rate cases. This piecemeal approach has two drawbacks: Net energy billing policies can be changed during every rate case and differ from one utility to the next. Also, the PSC does not regulate rural electric cooperatives and certain municipal electric utilities

### Near Term Policy Needs

Institute uniform net metering across utility boundaries, with the following characteristics:

- Net metering of renewable energy systems of up to 100 kW capacity (currently ranges from 20 to 100 kW)
- Generation in excess of customer's annual usage should be valued at the utility's marginal cost of energy (currently some utilities calculate net energy on a monthly basis)
- For any customer with more than one meter, net energy shall be calculated using the combined consumption of electricity recorded at all the customer's meters at the same billing address (currently not allowed)
- Net metering service should be available to any utility customer who desires it (currently some utilities have proposed a net metering capacity cap in their territory)
- A customer retains all renewable energy credits associated with system output (currently some utilities do not make this clear)

### Medium Term Policy Needs

Net metering policy and rules defined in Legislation, that:

- Expands participation; and
- Protects customer-generators from abrupt and unanticipated policy changes.

### Needed Actions

Support GSW Team Member, RENEW Wisconsin's:

- Intervention into the 2012 Wisconsin Public Service and We Energies rate cases
- Development of Net Energy Billing Legislation

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