



### Net Metering Policies Across Solarize Chicagoland

This document gives potential Solarize Chicagoland participants and others interested in going solar an overview of net metering in their utility territory.

The group buy area -Cook, Kane, Will, and DuPage counties- is within ComEd's footprint, but also contains 5 municipal electric utilities. Each utility has their own net metering policies that will affect how residents are compensated for excess energy sent back to the grid as well as how much solar capacity residents can install.

We have included a brief overview of each utility's net metering policies. If you have any questions please reach out to the utility company at the contact information provided. For general questions about Solarize Chicagoland contact [solarize@citizensutilityboard.org](mailto:solarize@citizensutilityboard.org).

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#### Helpful concepts & terms:

Net metering: The process of getting credited for excess solar energy exported to the grid. The electricity your solar system produces will first power your home. If at any given time there is more solar produced than your home needs, the excess is sent back to the grid. It is important to understand the basics of your utility's net metering policy when you go solar so that you can understand how your electricity bills will be affected.

Rollover credits: In some months your solar system may export more energy to the grid than you use from the grid over the whole month. Some utilities allow you to carry those excess credits over to the next month. In this document we refer to these credits as rollover credits.

Retail electricity rate: The rate you are paying your utility for electricity.

Wholesale electricity rate: The rate the utility pays its energy generators for electricity. The wholesale rate is lower than the retail rate. In some cases the utility will credit net metering customers at the wholesale rate instead of the retail rate.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA): A way to go solar where the solar company maintains ownership of the system and you pay them monthly based on the number of kWh the system produces. Some utility companies do not allow PPAs.

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## ComEd

Installation limit: To participate in net metering with ComEd, solar systems cannot be sized to produce more than 110% of the customer's annual electricity demand. Annual demand is based on the previous 12 months of usage.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the same rate they are being charged for electricity. 1 kWh sent to the grid offsets 1 kWh used from the grid.

Rollover Credits: If a net metering customer exports more solar energy to the grid in a given month than they used from the grid, the excess net metering credits rollover to the next month. Excess credits expire in April every year.

Links:

[ComEd - Net Metering](#)

[ComEd - Generation FAQs](#)

Contact:

Green Power Connection Team

[GPCTeam@comed.com](mailto:GPCTeam@comed.com)

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## Batavia

Installation limit: 10 kW AC. Customers cannot install an inverter larger than 10 kW, but could install slightly more than 10 kW DC of solar panels.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the same rate they are being charged for electricity. 1 kWh sent to the grid offsets 1 kWh used from the grid.

Rollover Credits: If a net metering customer exports more solar energy to the grid in a given month than they used from the grid, the excess net metering credits rollover to the next month.

Links:

[City of Batavia Services](#)

[Batavia Environmental Commission - Solar Resources](#)

Contact:

Mustafa Kahvedzic, Project Engineer

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630-454-2353

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## Geneva

Installation limit: No limit, but residential solar systems should always be sized to only offset the annual electricity needs of the household.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the same rate they are being charged for electricity. 1 kWh sent to the grid offsets 1 kWh used from the grid.

Rollover Credits: If a net metering customer exports more solar energy to the grid in a given month than they used from the grid, the excess net metering credits rollover to the next month. Excess credits expire in May of every year.

Links:

[City of Geneva - Solar Panel Installation](#)

[City of Geneva - How Does Net Metering Work](#)

Contact:

Aaron Holton, Electric Operations Manager

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## Naperville

Installation limit: 10 kW AC. Customers cannot install an inverter larger than 10 kW, but could install slightly more than 10 kW DC of solar panels.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the retail rate.

Rollover Credits: If a net metering customer exports more solar energy to the grid in a given month than they used from the grid, the excess net metering credits do not rollover to the next month. However, excess credits will be used to offset the monthly Customer Charge.

Other: Naperville has a Residential Solar Energy Rebate, this is an additional incentive available to Naperville Electric customers who go solar. The value ranges from \$1,000 to \$3,000 depending on the size of the solar system. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are not allowed.

Links:

[Naperville Electric Utility - Solar Panel Guidelines](#)

[Naperville Electric Utility - Net Metering Standards](#)

Contact:

Ron Ritter, Technical Specialist with the Naperville Electric Utility

[ritterr@naperville.il.us](mailto:ritterr@naperville.il.us)

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## St. Charles

Installation limit: No limit, but residential solar systems should always be sized to only offset the annual electricity needs of the household. Systems above 10 kW AC (systems with an inverter larger than 10 kW) will need to be considered on a case by case basis. Permitting for systems at or below 10 kW AC is more streamlined.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the wholesale rate.

Rollover Credits: Once per quarter, St. Charles will download the meter data for solar customers to determine how much solar energy the customer sent back to the grid. There is a \$25 per quarter fee for this process. If the customer exported more solar energy to the grid than they used from the grid, the excess credits will be applied towards the \$25 fee. If there are still excess credits they will rollover to the next quarter. Rollover credits will expire one year after they are accrued.

Other: Solar Leases and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are not allowed, only purchasing solar outright is allowed.

Links:

[City of St. Charles - Electric Utility](#)

Contact:

Paul Hopkins, Public Works Manager - Electric Services

[phopkins@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:phopkins@stcharlesil.gov)

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## Winnetka

Installation limit: 10 kW AC. Customers cannot install an inverter larger than 10 kW, but could install slightly more than 10 kW DC of solar panels.

Credits: Net metering customers are credited for solar exported to the grid at the retail rate during the summer months (June, July, August, September), and are credited at the wholesale rate during the remaining months.

Rollover Credits: If a net metering customer exports more solar energy to the grid in a given month than they used from the grid, the excess net metering credits rollover to the next month. Any excess rollover credits will expire at the end of the calendar year.

Links:

[Village of Winnetka - Solar Energy](#)

Contact:

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