

# **How Net Metering Works**

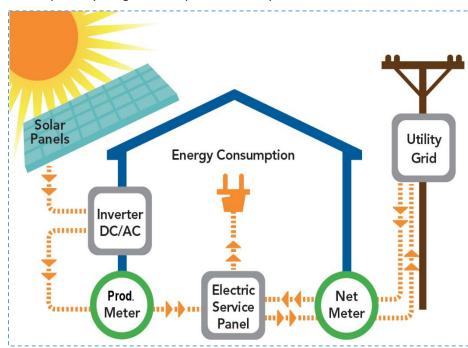
Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits homeowners or businesses for electricity added to the Holy Cross Energy (HCE) grid from a renewable generator, such as solar panels.

The net meter can only measure the electricity that flows across it, either into your home or back to the grid. Without a production meter, HCE does not know how much power your generator produced, only how much flowed back to the

#### HCE grid.

# Consumption, Generation & Usage:

- When you use more electricity onsite than your PV system generates, you use electricity from the grid.
- When your PV system generates more electricity than your onsite electric use, the excess flows back to the grid.
- Each month, HCE calculates the difference between your generation and your use. This quantity, your monthly net usage, is used to calculate your bill.



## Banked kWh:

• When **generation** exceeds **consumption**, the unused kilowatt-hours (kWh) go into a kWh bank at the end of each month. Any unused banked kWh are carried forward to offset your electric use in a future month.

**Minimum Monthly Charge:** Banked kWh can only be used to pay for consumed kWh; you will always be responsible for your monthly customer charge plus applicable fees, taxes, and surcharges.

- When you use more electricity than you generate, you will first use up any kWh in your bank. Then, you will pay for any net electricity use from the grid.
- Annually in April, we will pay you for any unused kWh and "zero out" your banked kWh. We calculate your payment by multiplying any unused banked kWh by our average wholesale power cost for the prior year.

### **Production Meter:**

- January 1, 2022, HCE made production meters optional. The production meter measures the electricity your PV system generates. You are billed only on the data from your net meter, which records power flows in and out of your home or business.
- You can access hourly information for either meter on SmartHub, a data portal available 24/7 on our website (www.holycross.com).
- If you wish to add a production meter to an existing generator, please email <a href="mailto:renewables@holycross.com">renewables@holycross.com</a> or call 970-947-5473. HCE will work with you and your electrician to retrofit your PV system.

# **Understanding Your Bill**

The second page of your billing statement details how charges are calculated.

#### PV System with Production Meter

The first three lines in the meter readings section show data from your net meter (i.e., meter #200017). The last line shows the data from your production meter (#299417**). Note**: When your PV system is first turned on, an additional line may appear at the top of the meter readings section. A different value in the Rate Code column (e.g., "1" vs. "1N") reflects metered usage prior to your meter being reprogrammed for net metering.

Our net meters record data in two different registers, depending on the direction of the power flow. Each value is shown separately on the new billing statement.

- Net Consumption line (e.g., 200017/Cons) shows electricity supplied from the grid (i.e., 854 kWh).
  This might occur after dark when a PV system is not generating.
- Net Generation line (e.g., 200017/Gen) shows electricity that flows back into the grid (i.e. 29 kWh). This might occur during the middle of a sunny day.
- Net Usage line (e.g., 200017/Net) shows net usage for a billing period. This value is calculated by subtracting Gen from Cons (e.g. 854 29 = 825 kWh\*\*). If Net is negative, these unused kWh are added to your banked kWh total.
  - \*\*This value, shown under the kWh Use column next to rate code 1N (in this example), is used to calculate your bill and any changes to your kWh bank.

Services		Days	Meter	Readings		Multi.	kWh Use	Rate
From	То	Days	Number	Previous	Present	wuru.	KWII USE	Code
12/08/16	01/08/17	31	200017/Cons	583	1437	1	854	
12/08/16	01/08/17	31	200017/Gen	166	29	1	29	
12/08/16	01/08/17	31	200017/Net	417	1242	1	825	1N
12/08/16	01/08/17	31	299417/Net	0	0	1	-387	GEN

Description	Usage Units	Rate	Charge
Customer Charge Electric Cost Adjustment Energy Charge	825 kWh 825 kWh	\$0.0024 \$0.09849	\$9.00 \$1.98 \$81.25
Current Electric Charges			\$92.23
WE CARE Surcharge		2.0%	\$1.84
Other Charges		•	\$1.84
Town Tax Franchise Fee		4.5% 3.0%	\$4.36 \$2.82
Taxes & Franchise Fees			\$7.18
Current Balance			\$101.25

• **Production Meter Line (e.g., 299417/Gen)** shows the actual electricity generated by your PV system during the time period shown on your billing statement. **This fourth line is informational only and not used for billing.** The Rate Code designation for a production meter is also **Gen**; however, the production meter uses a different meter number than the one designated for your net meter.

To calculate your total onsite electricity use during a month, add the **Net** and production meter **Gen** values together (e.g. 825 + 387 = 1,212 kWh).

If you have added kWh to your bank, a separate line item (Banked kWh) will be shown in the lower left portion of the charge detail section of your billing statement.