

# SAVE WYOMING ROOFTOP SOLAR



## NET METERING FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR

### WHAT IS NET METERING?

**Net metering** is a billing mechanism that allows homeowners and businesses that generate their own electricity to deliver power they do not use back into the grid and receive full credit. These credits can then be applied to future utility bills. Credits and energy savings allows solar owners to receive a payback on their solar panels where over a period of time they can break even on the investment.

**Recently, the Wyoming Legislature has focused on reducing the payback of rooftop solar by changing our net-metering statues.**

### THE MYTH OF COST SHIFTING

**The myth of the “Cost Shift”** implies that solar panel owners are not paying enough towards grid maintenance. “Cost shifting” is a term that appears to be solely used against small renewable systems; utilities claim that because on-site solar users buy less electricity from them, the companies get less money to cover their overall costs of transmission and grid maintenance. This “cost-shift,” if it exists, is far less than other subsidies typically found in utility rates, which charge the same rates to all residential customers, or to all similarly-sized commercial customers. When compared to all electricity used in Wyoming, the energy produced from rooftop solar systems in Wyoming is so miniscule **Less than 1/4 of one percent (0.059%) of WY's retail electric sales are met by net metered generation** that any cost impact is trivial.

### NET METERING CUSTOMERS USE THE GRID AND PAY FOR THE GRID

Most net metering customers both use and pay for the grid. The majority of Wyoming solar owners only generate part of their own electricity. The rest they purchase from their utility, just like other customers. A solar customer pays 100% retail rates for all energy consumed from the utility. In Wyoming, net metering customers also pay an extra monthly fee toward grid maintenance.

### NET METERING AND SOLAR PROVIDE JOBS AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION TO WYOMING

The solar industry is experiencing exceptional growth in Wyoming right now. Rolling back net metering could kill the industry. **There are currently 13 small businesses in our state that provide solar installations, counting for approximately 159 jobs.** According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, solar jobs are the fastest growing occupation and solar energy is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the country. Net metering needs to stay strong at a time when Wyoming should be working hard to diversify our economy. We can't afford to lose any tools right now.

## NET METERING IS A NET BENEFIT FOR NON-SOLAR CUSTOMERS

Studies show that the benefits provided by local rooftop solar equal, or exceed, the costs to the utility or to other customers including the enhanced reliability and resiliency of the electric system, land use benefits, air quality benefits and local economic benefits.

### KEY TALKING POINTS:

- **Wyoming should focus on supporting one of the nation's fastest growing industries, not disabling it.** We need to diversify our economy and the solar industry is a key piece to our energy future.
- **The solar industry provides jobs and employment opportunities to people in Wyoming.** There are currently 10 small businesses in our state that provide solar installations, counting for approximately 140 jobs
- **The cost-shifting argument unfairly targets Wyoming's small-scale solar customers. Cost shifting is not unique to rooftop solar.** It occurs with many electricity users and especially when residents, municipalities or businesses invest in energy-efficiency measures or when utilities service remote rural areas.
- **Solar provides other external benefits to non-solar customers.** Such as health, social, and environmental benefits well beyond other forms of energy production. It also provides cost benefits to other ratepayers due to avoided energy needs, avoided distribution losses, and avoided costs for transmission, since the energy is produced in the same location where it is used
- **Solar customers use the grid and pay for the grid.** A solar customer pays 100% retail rates for all energy consumed from the utility. In Wyoming, net metering customers also pay an extra monthly fee toward grid maintenance.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Corporations committee will meet in **Cheyenne on November 11th. Please call or write these members and urge them to keep Wyoming's net-metering law the way it is. Please be respectful and concise, and speak from your experience and values.**

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