



# NET METERING

Make the load lighter

**Question and Answer Guide**

## INTRODUCTION

Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they feed into the grid thereby reducing their electricity bills. The Electricity (Net Metering) Regulations-Statutory Instrument 86 of 2018 and Statutory Instrument 38 of 2022 presents opportunities for small scale renewable energy generation particularly rooftop solar PV systems to feed excess energy into the grid.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **1.Q: Who is eligible for Net Metering?**

A: The net metering system is intended for any grid connected customer with a threshold installed capacity of up to 5MW. Net metering is not intended for systems that will continuously generate more than a customer uses.

### **2.Q: How will the Net Metering program work?**

A: The initiative is open to residential, industrial, farming and commercial customers who will be able to install solar PV panels or other renewable energy,

electricity generating sources up to 5MW.

Through this program, customers are able to offset part or all of their electricity requirements.

### **3.Q: What if I want to sell electricity produced by my system to the power utility for monetary benefit?**

A: You need to apply for an Independent Power Producer (IPP) generation license from ZERA and be able to sell the energy produced to the grid.



**4.Q: Who do I engage for solar PV installation?**

A: You need an expert to make sure solar works best for you. There is a pool of ZERA trained solar PV installers countrywide and reputable renewable energy service providers whose contacts are readily available on the ZERA website.

**5.Q: Where do I get application forms?**

A: To apply for the net metering, one can get the forms from the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC). ZETDC is the implementing agency for Net Metering

and will carry out grid impact studies before allowing connection onto the grid.

The application will be handled on a first-come first-served basis. The application forms are also available on ZETDC website: [www.zetdc.co.zw](http://www.zetdc.co.zw)

**6.Q: I want to set up my generation at another location so that I can offset my bill in town, is this allowed?**

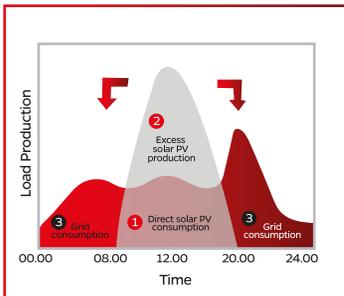
A: No, qualified generation can only offset energy use at the same connection point where the meter is installed at the moment.



**7.Q: I am a tenant, am I able to net meter where I live?**

A: Yes. As long as the “premises are owned, leased or otherwise controlled” by you, the customer generator. Ultimately it will depend on your contract with the property owner.

The Concept of Net Metering



**8.Q: How do I get compensated by the utility for the energy that my system feeds into the grid?**

A: For every KWh that the customer generator exports to the grid unit, he/she receives a credit of 0.8kWh for domestic customer and 0.85kWh for a Maximum Demand Time of Use customer in the billing period. Monetary compensation is not allowed.

**9.Q: Will I be able to “make money” with net metering?**

A: Net Metering is intended to provide a way for customers to offset their energy bills and is not intended to serve as a means to generate revenue for the customer.



**10.Q: What happens if I transfer/sell my property and interconnected generation?**

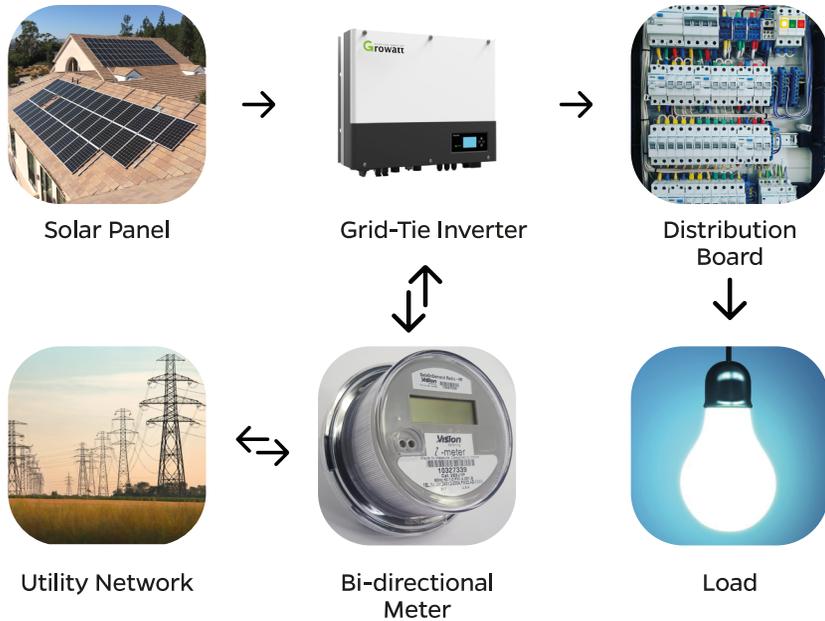
A: It is the responsibility of the customer (seller) to notify the utility of the transfer of the interconnection generation, inform the buyer that they would need to sign an interconnection agreement with the utility if they so desire. A new interconnection agreement has to be signed before service is transferred, unless the generation is disconnected from the distribution system.

**11.Q: What is the benefit of Net Metering?**

A: The major benefit of Net Metering is that it allows you to offset as much energy as your house uses. Net Metering utilises the electricity grid as the battery bank for energy storage.



## Net Metering Block Diagram



### Advantages of Net Metering

- No battery storage system needed- the grid will be the storage
- No need for back up diesel/petrol generator
- Non-polluting
- Low maintenance costs
- Property value increases
- Reduced electricity bills





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