

# RENEWABLE ENERGY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **Does Corn Belt Energy allow renewable energy, like solar or wind generation, to be interconnected to their power system?**

Corn Belt Energy does allow the safe interconnection of renewable energy to their power system.

## **What size renewable energy system is allowed?**

Corn Belt Energy will allow any size renewable energy system to be safely interconnected to our system. However, there are different requirements and policies for systems above 25kW AC. **Each system should be sized properly to accommodate to the member's electric consumption.**

## **What does the term 'net metering' mean?**

Net metering is the policy of allowing a member's generated kilowatt hours that are pushed back to the electric grid to be applied as a credit to each month's bill up to the minimum charge. For example, you can produce energy with solar panels to add credits and get paid for the energy that you produce but do not use. When receiving kWh credits, facility charges and minimum kVA amounts still apply. See our policy for further details.

## **Does Corn Belt Energy have a net metering policy?**

Corn Belt Energy has an annual net metering policy for kilowatt hours that are produced by renewable energy systems up to 25kW AC in size. 10kW AC is a large renewable energy system and would cover most residential home services.

## **Does Corn Belt Energy calculate the payback of renewable energy, including renewable energy credits (RECs)?**

Corn Belt Energy does not calculate the payback of renewable energy systems. As a service to our membership, if asked we will look over the estimation given by the renewable energy sales company to help our members better understand the estimate and to determine the accuracy of Corn Belt Energy data provided in the proposal.

## **Does Corn Belt Energy charge a fee for interconnecting renewable energy?**

Corn Belt Energy does not charge a fee for interconnecting renewable energy systems. In an effort to recover the costs incurred to Corn Belt Energy during the connection process, there is an application fee required for renewable energy systems 25kW AC and under and a deposit required for systems larger than 25kW AC. This deposit will need to be paid at the time of application.

## **Does Corn Belt Energy charge a member with renewable energy any extra monthly fees?**

There are no extra fees that are charged to a member who has a renewable energy system installed. A member may lose certain discounts afforded to them, depending on their billing rate or for the size or type of load they have had prior to the system being connected. All members are charged a minimum 'service availability charge / facility charge' and a minimum kVA charge, if applicable. These charges account for the cost of maintaining the power lines and systems up to your home and do not include the cost of energy used.



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## Could my billing rate change?

Your billing rate is designated to your account depending on the type and amount of energy you use as well as any discounts afforded to you by any special programs you may participate in. A renewable energy system could change the billing rate designation for your account. Please check with our staff prior to committing to a renewable energy project.

## Does Corn Belt Energy require the member to have insurance on the renewable energy system?

Corn Belt Energy requires a one-million-dollar liability policy to be kept on the renewable energy system for the longevity of the installation. Corn Belt Energy requires notification of any changes or cancellations to the insurance policy as well as yearly renewals in order to have the most accurate and up to date information on file. This policy protects the power grid to which the member connects his/her renewable energy system and service employees.

## Does Corn Belt Energy require a contract to be signed?

Corn Belt Energy requires an agreement to be signed. This agreement includes, but is not limited to keeping insurance on the system, compliance with laws, rules, and regulations, ensuring that no changes have been made to the system and that the system will operate properly in case of an outage. For example, in the event of an outage, your renewable energy system must be shut down to prevent back-feeding electricity into de-energized power lines that may have fallen or that line crew members may be working on. It's important to have this shut-down feature to prevent injuries—and even death—to those working on the line.

## Does the system act like a back-up generator when Corn Belt Energy's power goes off?

In the case of a power outage, Corn Belt Energy requires that the renewable energy equipment be automatically disconnected from the power grid. This is to ensure the safety of any line personnel working on the power lines as well as to protect the generation equipment. Inspections are required upon connection to Corn Belt Energy's power grid. (Please note: The above answer references the majority of renewable systems currently on the market. There are specialized renewable energy systems that will isolate from the power grid but require specialized equipment.)

## When should I contact Corn Belt Energy about my plans for adding renewable energy to my house/business?

Corn Belt Energy should be contacted at the very early stages of discussing the installation of a renewable energy system. This will ensure there are no questions left unanswered toward the end of the installation. Please do not rely on solar installers to share current costs, practices, policies or procedures specific to Corn Belt Energy.

## Are there any rebates offered through Corn Belt Energy for a renewable energy system?

Corn Belt Energy does not currently offer any rebates for renewable energy systems.

## Are inspections required? What if I need to make changes/alterations to my system?

Corn Belt Energy will do a final inspection of the renewable energy equipment to ensure it follows all laws, rules, and regulations. Corn Belt Energy does not authorize tampering with metering equipment of any type including cutting meter seals. If there are any changes or alterations to your service, this will need to be done with the help of one Corn Belt Energy personnel prior to the installation of the renewable energy system. Cutting meter seals is forbidden and will result in additional fees and require reinspection.

## Can Corn Belt Energy assist me if I do not achieve the return on investment promised to me by the solar installer?

In most cases, solar is a significant financial investment. While many of our members are satisfied with their solar purchase, we have members who will never achieve payback. It is your responsibility to verify that the estimated return on investment is accurate and that you have confirmed the payback period.

## Who do I contact with further questions?

Please email any inquires to Corn Belt Energy at [GreenEnergy@cornbeltenergy](mailto:GreenEnergy@cornbeltenergy) or call 309-662-5330 to speak to our engineering department.

## CONTACT US

309-662-5330 | [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com) | [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) |



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