

SolarNet and Net Metering

Questions and Answers

What is net metering?

Net metering is shorthand for getting paid the same price for each unit of electricity generated by a solar electric system and exported to the grid during daylight as the electricity company charges for each unit of its electricity that is imported from the grid when it is dark. This is equivalent to allowing a solar household's normal electricity meter to run backwards when solar power goes out from the house to the grid, although in practice it may be done by installing a second meter to measure electricity exports.

Why does net metering matter for solar power?

When you put solar electric panels on your home you become a miniature power station. Solar homeowners should be rewarded for producing clean electricity that doesn't damage the climate but most utilities pay a miserly 2.5p - 4p for each unit of solar electricity they buy from solar homes while still charging 7p a unit for the electricity that they sell them from the grid. Net metering means solar electric homes get a fair deal for their solar power.

Who offers net metering?

Only one electricity utility company offers solar customers a net metering arrangement. Thanks to a unique collaboration with Greenpeace, the power company TXU Europe, whose retail arm is Eastern Energy, has developed a break-through net metering deal for households with solar electric systems.

For more information on SolarNet please telephone 0800 183 1222 or write to Eastern Energy, Tailored Services, Freepost ANG 5632, Bedford, MK41 0XP.