



Net Metering Transition

Installer Frequently Asked Questions

What is Changing?

As of January 1, 2025, Illinois will sunset Net Metering and all new solar customers will transition to “Smart Solar Billing.”

While this change does not impact current solar customers, it is recommended to notify them of this change and assure them that, as “Legacy” customers, their billing structure will not change. All customers must be notified of this change whether they have a system currently installed or not, if they have yet to apply for interconnection, or if they are just beginning their journey into solar.

When is the Net Metering Deadline?

In order for a customer to take advantage of the current Full Retail Net Metering, they must have a Certificate of Completion application, Witness Test Request application (for Ameren Illinois customers only), and a Net Metering application submitted to their utility before 5:00 PM Central Time on December 31, 2024.

This is a hard deadline, so any submission after this deadline will automatically begin on Smart Solar Billing. Even if the submission deadline is met, Ameren and ComEd still reserve the right to reject a submission for projects the utility deems incomplete or for submissions that are determined to have missing or inaccurate information.

Is Net Metering Going Away?

No. Current solar customers will be considered “Legacy” customers and will continue to receive the same Full Retail Net Metering benefits they always have throughout the lifetime of their solar panel system.

In order to be considered a legacy customer, all required documentation must be submitted to the customer’s utility, including a Certificate of Completion application, a Witness Test Request (for Ameren Illinois customers only), and a Net Metering application by 5:00 PM Central Time on December 31, 2024.

What is Smart Solar Billing?

Smart Solar Billing is the new billing practice that Illinois will deploy as of January 1, 2025. Smart Solar Billing is the successor to the current retail rate Net Metering structure. Customers on Smart Solar Billing can still access financial incentives through currently available one-time rebates and experience lower monthly electric bills.

To offset the initial cost to install solar and/or storage, customers can apply for a one-time “Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate” (also called the “Smart Inverter Rebate”) and/or the “Storage Rebate.” The DG Rebate offers an incentive of \$300 per kilowatt of generating capacity and the Storage Rebate offers an incentive of \$300 per kilowatt hour of storage. More detail on these rebates is provided further down in the FAQs.

What is Changing with the Transition to Smart Solar Billing?

There are several noteworthy differences in Smart Solar Billing:

- Credits will apply to a different portion of a customer’s power bill. Credits will now only apply to the supply and transmission portions of the power bill – rather than the entire bill (supply, delivery, taxes, etc.).
- Smart Solar Billing uses a new Dynamic Supply Pricing. The export value will be based on the tariffed, contract rate or time-of-use rate, depending on the customer’s selected rate.
- Customers on Smart Solar Billing have access to the “Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate (also called the “Smart Inverter Rebate”) and the “Storage Rebate.”
- The DG Rebate provides solar customers with a one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt DC of generating capacity. For example, if a customer installs a 10-kilowatt DC system, then the customer will receive a \$3,000 rebate.
- The Storage Rebate functions similarly to the DG Rebate, but for battery storage. Solar customers who also install battery storage will receive an additional one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of storage to help reduce the cost of battery storage and provide more energy resilience to homeowners.



What Should I Tell a Customer if They Ask if it is Still Worthwhile to Go Solar Once Smart Solar Billing Begins?

Installing a solar panel system will still provide financial benefits through currently available rebates and monthly electric bill savings. Plus, customers will be reducing their carbon footprint and contributing to a healthier environment.

Additionally, if a customer also installs battery storage, they will increase their energy resilience, further increasing the likelihood that they will avoid power blackouts even during the most severe weather, and be able to participate in a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) program. Participation in a VPP program can provide additional incentives to owners of solar plus storage for supporting the grid during critical times. Illinois is currently exploring VPP program options.

Will Smart Solar Billing Still Provide Customers with Financial Savings?

Customers on Smart Solar Billing will still be able to access currently available rebates and can still receive lower monthly electric bills. The one-time, DG Rebate and Storage Rebate will help offset the initial cost to install a solar panel system, while customers continue to receive some monthly savings on their electric bill when they export excess generation to the grid under the new Smart Solar Billing.

The rebates can also be combined with existing federal and state incentives to reduce the overall cost of installing a solar panel system.

Customers will still save money on their monthly power bills by installing a solar panel system.*

**It is recommended that you do not promise a customer a specific amount of monthly savings on their energy bills, as each installation is unique, and savings will vary from customer to customer based on use and behavior.*

What are the Rebates Offered Under Smart Solar Billing?

Smart Solar Billing customers are eligible for currently available one-time rebates, such as the “Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate” (also called the “Smart Inverter Rebate”), and a “Storage Rebate.”

The currently available DG Rebate – also known as the Smart Inverter Rebate – provides solar customers with a one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt of generating capacity. For example, if a customer installs a 10-kilowatt system, then the customer will receive a \$3,000 rebate.

The already available Storage Rebate functions similarly to the DG Rebate, but specific to battery storage. Solar customers who also install battery storage will receive an additional one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of storage to help reduce the cost of battery storage and provide more energy resilience to homeowners.

You should let customers know that the financial incentives can also be combined with existing federal and state incentives to reduce the overall cost of installing a solar panel system.

When Did Net Metering Begin in Illinois?

Net Metering was implemented in Illinois in 2008 to incentivize the adoption of solar energy and build up a mature market. For years, the transition of Net Metering has been planned and negotiated, including during negotiations for the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) in 2015-2016 and the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) of 2021.

Why is Net Metering Changing?

Net Metering is a common practice nationwide to incentivize the adoption of solar energy and renewable energy technologies by making renewable energy more accessible and economically viable.

Typically, a Net Metering program starts with significant incentives to encourage rapid adoption of renewable energy technologies and is often planned to reduce its benefits over time as adoption of renewable energy reaches pre-identified thresholds.

What if the Customer’s Energy is Supplied by a Municipality or Cooperative?

The change to Net Metering will not apply to that customer. This change will only impact customers of investor-owned utilities in Illinois, such as ComEd, Ameren, and MidAmerican.

What if I Expand My Current System After the Deadline?

Ameren customers currently on Full Retail Net Metering may expand their system capacity by up to 100% and continue to receive the full benefit for the lifetime of the expansion. ComEd is not currently allowing this.

Disclaimer: The information provided is not and should not be considered legal advice.



Information on the Net Metering transition continues to evolve. Please scan the QR code to monitor for new updates to the FAQs and other resources on the Solar Powers Illinois Net Metering resources page.



Illinois Net Metering Transition Resources for Solar Installers



What is Happening?

An important change is coming to new Illinois solar customers. Illinois is transitioning its Net Metering program, starting January 1, 2025, to “Smart Solar Billing.”

Billing for new solar customers in Illinois will change as of January 1, 2025. Any customers that have a Certificate of Completion application and a Witness Test Request application submitted to their utility **after 5 PM Central Time on December 31, 2024**, will automatically be placed on the new Smart Solar Billing program.

In order for a customer to receive the current Full Retail Net Metering benefits, a Certificate of Completion application, a Witness Test Request application, a Net Metering application, and associated supporting materials must be submitted to the customer’s utility by 5 PM CT on December 31, 2024.

All required applications and supporting materials must be submitted through the online portal of the customer’s utility by 5:00 PM CT on December 31, 2024.

It is not necessary to receive utility approval by the deadline. The materials must only be submitted by the deadline. Even if the submission deadline is met, Ameren and ComEd still reserve the right to reject a submission for projects the utility deems incomplete or for submissions that are determined to have missing or inaccurate information.

What is needed to apply for Net Metering?

(Please note, this is the same process installers already follow today. The materials must only be submitted by the deadline. It is not necessary to receive utility approval prior to the deadline.)

A complete submission for ComEd will include:

Application for Net Metering

Certificate of Completion application, which includes the below:

- A close up photo clearly showing the nameplate with the model and serial number of the inverter
- Signed and approved inspection form (if required by the local authority). If no inspection form is required by the local authority, then an itemized invoice or receipt including the inverter model/serial number and address of installation is required
- If microinverters are installed, then include a single file listing all of the serial numbers
- If a storage system is installed, then include a photo of the battery nameplate

A complete submission for Ameren will include:

Application for Net Metering

Witness Test Request application

Certificate of Completion application, which includes the following:

- Photos of the required signage and placarding
- Proof of insurance
- Installer certification
- Signed and approved inspection from the local authority having jurisdiction (where applicable)

In addition to the required applications and supporting materials, the system must also be completely installed, tested, and have a final electrical inspection (as required by the local authority).

For ComEd customers, the online Certificate of Completion form can be found in ComEd’s interconnection portal under the Application section.

For Ameren customers, the Construction Complete form can be found in the PowerClerk interconnection portal.

There may be rare instances where a customer’s system is prevented from receiving a Certificate of Completion by the December 31 deadline because of work required to interconnect the project. In this case, the project will still be eligible to receive Full Retail Net Metering.

It is critical to notify all customers of this change whether or not they have a system currently installed, if they have yet to apply for interconnection, or if they are just beginning their journey into solar.



What is Changing?

For current solar customers:

- Net Metering is not going away in Illinois.
- Current customers, and any customers that submit a completed Certificate of Completion application, a Witness Test Request application (for Ameren Illinois customers), as well as a Net Metering application to their utility before 5 PM Central Time on December 31, 2024, will be considered “Legacy” customers and will receive Full Retail Net Metering benefits throughout the lifetime of their system (30 years from the date of issuance of the permission to operate). Legacy customers will not be impacted by the changes to Net Metering.
- While this change does not impact current solar customers, it is recommended to notify them of this change and assure them that their billing structure will not change.

There are several noteworthy differences in Smart Solar Billing:

- 1. Credits will apply to a different portion of a customer’s power bill.** Credits will now only apply to the supply and transmission portions of a power bill – rather than the entire bill (supply, delivery, taxes, etc.).
- 2. Smart Solar Billing uses a new Dynamic Supply Pricing.** The export value will be based on the [tariffed](#), contract rate or time-of-use rate, depending on the customer’s selected rate.
- 3. Customers on Smart Solar Billing have access to the “Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate** (also called the “Smart Inverter Rebate”) and the “Storage Rebate.”
- 4. The DG Rebate provides solar customers with a one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt DC of generating capacity.** For example, if a customer installs a 10-kilowatt DC system, then the customer will receive a \$3,000 rebate.
- 5. The Storage Rebate functions similarly to the DG Rebate, but for battery storage.** Solar customers who also install battery storage will receive an additional one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of storage to help reduce the cost of battery storage and provide more energy resilience to homeowners.

What Do I Tell My Customers?

It is critical to let customers know that Smart Solar Billing will still provide financial benefits.

Any customer who would like to take advantage of the existing Full Retail Net Metering compensation program in Illinois should be encouraged to act as quickly as possible to install solar. With record levels of homeowners installing solar as well as the complexities of the permitting process, it is critical to set appropriate expectations with your customers that they may not meet the Net Metering deadline.

It is highly recommended that you clarify to customers that the review and approval process of permits is outside of your control, and that depending on the customer’s location, utility, local regulations and codes, and the size of the installation, the permitting review and approval process could take considerable time to complete.

It is critical to assure your customers that you are experts at installing solar and

explain to them exactly what permits and paperwork need to be completed and submitted to complete their installation – from local jurisdiction building, zoning, and electrical permits to homeowners association and utility paperwork required to ensure compliance with local regulations and codes.

Even if a customer starts today, it is possible their installation may not meet the December 31 deadline. In that case, the customer will automatically be enrolled to receive the benefits of Smart Solar Billing. Installing a solar panel system will still provide financial benefits through currently available rebates and monthly electric bill savings. Plus, customers will be reducing their carbon footprint and contributing to a healthier environment.

Additionally, if a customer also installs battery storage, they will increase their energy

resilience, further increasing the likelihood that they will avoid power blackouts even during the most severe weather.

The upfront rebates (DG Rebate and Storage Rebate) can be combined with existing federal and state incentives to reduce the overall cost of installing a solar panel system.

Customers will still save money on their monthly power bills by installing a solar panel system.*

Another benefit for homeowners is that credits are able to be rolled over rather than reset every year, and the credits will stay with the system throughout its lifetime. This means that a solar panel system will further increase the resale value of a home, as the new homeowner will be able to enjoy the energy-saving benefits of the system, since the credits stay with the system throughout its lifetime.

*It is recommended that you do not promise a customer a specific amount of monthly savings each month on energy bills, as each installation is unique, and savings will vary from customer to customer.

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Scan the QR code for more information!





Illinois Net Metering Transition How to Support Your Customers

Net Metering isn't going away – it's just changing! In 2025, Illinois will sunset Net Metering and it will transition to “[Smart Solar Billing](#).” **The deadline for customers to be on Net Metering is 5:00PM CT on December 31, 2024!**

What Do Customers Need to Know?

- There is no change for legacy customers (current customers and any customer who meets the deadline)
- Customers can still take advantage of the currently available DG Rebate and/or Storage Rebate, which can be combined with other financial incentives
- Solar can still lower monthly electric bills for customers¹

In order for a customer to be on Net Metering, the below materials must be submitted to their respective utility before 5:00 pm on December 31, 2024.²

(Please note, this is the same process installers already follow today. The materials must only be submitted by the deadline. It is not necessary to receive utility approval prior to the deadline.)

ComEd Customers	Ameren Customers
<p>Application for Net Metering</p> <p>Certificate of Completion application, which includes the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A close up photo clearly showing the nameplate with the model and serial number of the inverter • Signed and approved inspection form (if required by the local authority). If no inspection form is required by the local authority, then an itemized invoice or receipt including the inverter model/serial number and address of installation is required • If microinverters are installed, then include a single file listing all of the serial numbers • If a storage system is installed, then include a photo of the battery nameplate 	<p>Application for Net Metering</p> <p>Witness Test Request application</p> <p>Certificate of Completion application, which includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos of the required signage and placarding • Proof of insurance • Installer certification • Signed and approved inspection from the local authority having jurisdiction (where applicable)

¹Savings on monthly power bills will vary from customer to customer, as each solar system installation is unique, and based on use and behavior. It is recommended that you speak with a local installer to understand how solar will benefit you.

²Due to record levels of homeowners installing solar, lengthy permitting processes, and other potential delays, it is not guaranteed that you will qualify for Net Metering even if your installation has already been ordered. Please check with your installer for an estimated timeline of completion. Even if the submission deadline is met, Ameren and ComEd still reserve the right to reject a submission for projects the utility deems incomplete or for submissions that are determined to have missing or inaccurate information.

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The **DG Rebate** will provide solar customers with a one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt of generating capacity. For example, if your system is a 10-kilowatt system, then you will receive a \$3,000 rebate.

The **Storage Rebate** functions similarly, but is specific to battery storage. As a solar customer who also installs storage, you will receive an additional one-time rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of storage to help reduce the cost of battery storage and provide your home with more energy resilience.

These rebates can be combined with other federal and state incentives to offset the cost to install solar.



Still have questions?

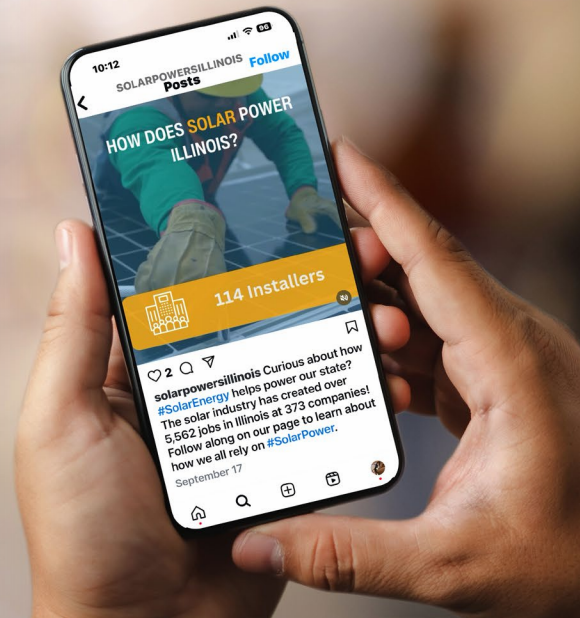
Scan or visit
SolarPowersIllinois.com
for more information!



Net Metering

Social Media Post Ideas

Below are templates to draw inspiration from, and you are encouraged to use your unique brand voice when sharing to your social media channels.



Copy Example #1

Net Metering isn't going away – it's just changing! As the Illinois solar market matures, the state is transitioning from Net Metering to Smart Solar Billing system. Check out the link below to learn more about what this change means.

<https://www.solarpowersillinois.com/consumers>

Copy Example #2

With the new Smart Solar Billing system, customers can enjoy financial savings in exchange for slightly lower monthly savings on power bills! We're excited to offer you resources to help you figure out how this new system will impact YOU at the link below.

<https://www.solarpowersillinois.com/net-metering>

Copy Example #3

Wondering how the Net Metering transition to Smart Solar Billing will impact you? Have no fear! We have all the answers to your questions and more. Learn all about the transition to Smart Solar Billing and whether you will be affected here:

<https://www.solarpowersillinois.com/net-metering>



Three Things to Know About Illinois' Net Metering Transition

1

Net Metering isn't going away – it's just changing! Customers who have a solar and/or storage system that submits a Certificate of Completion application, Witness Test Request application (Ameren customers only), and a Net Metering application **before 5:00 p.m. Central Time on December 31, 2024** can qualify for Net Metering.¹

2

Current solar customers will be considered **“Legacy” customers** and will continue to receive the same Full Retail Net Metering benefits they always have throughout the lifetime of their solar and/or storage system. **There are no changes for Legacy customers.**

3

Customers on Smart Solar Billing are still eligible for savings through the currently available DG Rebate and/or Storage Rebate and can experience long-term savings through lower monthly electric bills.²



**Scan to learn more
about the transition to
“Smart Solar Billing!”**

¹Due to record levels of homeowners installing solar and other potential delays, it is not guaranteed that you will qualify for Net Metering even if your installation has already been ordered. Even if the submission deadline is met, Ameren and ComEd still reserve the right to reject a submission for projects the utility deems incomplete or for submissions that are determined to have missing or inaccurate information.

²Savings on monthly power bills will vary from customer to customer, as each solar system installation is unique, and based on use and behavior. It is recommended that you speak with a local installer to understand how solar will benefit you.

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