
HOUSE BILL 2243

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Eddy, Morris, McCoy, Moeller, and Hudgins

Read first time 01/10/12. Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to net metering of electricity; and amending RCW
2 80.60.010 and 80.60.020.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 80.60.010 and 2007 c 323 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
7 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

8 (1) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

9 (2) "Customer-generator" means a ~~((user-of))~~ customer that owns and
10 operates, leases and operates, or contracts with a third party that
11 owns and operates a net metering system.

12 (3) "Electrical company" means a company owned by investors that
13 meets the definition of RCW 80.04.010.

14 (4) "Electric cooperative" means a cooperative or association
15 organized under chapter 23.86 or 24.06 RCW.

16 (5) "Electric utility" means any electrical company, public utility
17 district, irrigation district, port district, electric cooperative, or
18 municipal electric utility that is engaged in the business of
19 distributing electricity to retail electric customers in the state.

1 (6) "Irrigation district" means an irrigation district under
2 chapter 87.03 RCW.

3 (7) "Meter aggregation" means the administrative combination of
4 readings from and billing for all meters, regardless of the rate class,
5 on premises owned or leased by a customer-generator located within the
6 service territory of a single electric utility.

7 (8) "Municipal electric utility" means a city or town that owns or
8 operates an electric utility authorized by chapter 35.92 RCW.

9 (9) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the
10 electricity supplied by an electric utility and the electricity
11 generated by a customer-generator over the applicable billing period.

12 (10) "Net metering system" means a fuel cell, a facility that
13 produces electricity and used and useful thermal energy from a common
14 fuel source, or a facility for the production of electrical energy that
15 generates renewable energy, and that:

16 (a) Has an electrical generating capacity of not more than (~~one~~
17 ~~hundred kilowatts~~) two megawatts;

18 (b) Is located on the customer-generator's premises;

19 (c) Operates in parallel with the electric utility's transmission
20 and distribution facilities; and

21 (d) Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-
22 generator's requirements for electricity.

23 (11) "Premises" means any residential property, commercial real
24 estate, or lands, owned or leased by a customer-generator within the
25 service area of a single electric utility.

26 (12) "Port district" means a port district within which an
27 industrial development district has been established as authorized by
28 Title 53 RCW.

29 (13) "Public utility district" means a district authorized by
30 chapter 54.04 RCW.

31 (14) "Renewable energy" means energy generated by a facility that
32 uses water, wind, solar energy, or biogas from animal waste as a fuel.

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 80.60.020 and 2007 c 323 s 2 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 (1) An electric utility:

36 (a) Shall offer to make net metering available to eligible
37 customer(~~s~~)-generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the

1 cumulative generating capacity of net metering systems equals ((0.25))
2 five percent of the utility's peak demand during 1996. ((On January 1,
3 2014, the cumulative generating capacity available to net metering
4 systems will equal 0.5 percent of the utility's peak demand during
5 1996.)) Not less than one-half of the utility's 1996 peak demand
6 available for net metering systems shall be reserved for the cumulative
7 generating capacity attributable to net metering systems that generate
8 renewable energy;

9 (b) Shall allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a
10 standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of
11 electricity in two directions, unless the commission, in the case of an
12 electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of
13 other electric utilities, determines, after appropriate notice and
14 opportunity for comment:

15 (i) That the use of additional metering equipment to monitor the
16 flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for
17 the interconnection of net metering systems, after taking into account
18 the benefits and costs of purchasing and installing additional metering
19 equipment; and

20 (ii) How the cost of purchasing and installing an additional meter
21 is to be allocated between the customer-generator and the utility;

22 (c) Shall charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee that
23 is the same as other customers of the electric utility in the same rate
24 class, but shall not charge the customer-generator any additional
25 standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee or charge unless the
26 commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate
27 governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, determines,
28 after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment that:

29 (i) The electric utility will incur direct costs associated with
30 interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any
31 offsetting benefits associated with these systems; and

32 (ii) Public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the
33 customer-generator rather than allocating these costs among the
34 utility's entire customer base.

35 (2) If a production meter and software is required by the electric
36 utility to provide meter aggregation under RCW 80.60.030(4), the

1 customer-generator is responsible for the purchase of the production
2 meter and software.

--- END ---