

HELP SAVE ROOFTOP SOLAR

*Tell legislators to vote **NO** on the bill “Small customer electricity generation!”*

Background: What is Net Metering?

Net metering is a policy that allows owners of small, on-site renewable energy systems (homes, ranches, community not-for-profits, and businesses) to produce some of their own power and get full credit for any extra power they supply to the electricity grid. For example, when a homeowner’s rooftop solar panels generate more power than is needed, the excess electricity flows to the grid. The customer generator is billed for their monthly net use; consumption minus generation plus a base fee for connection to the grid. Currently, Wyoming law only allows small, residential-sized systems — 25 kilowatts or less — to be eligible for net-metering credit.

What does the bill “Small customer electricity generation” actually do?

- Eliminates net metering for new solar owners as of July 1, 2025 and for existing owners in 2030.
- Requires the Public Service Commission to establish new rates for rooftop solar customers. It lets the many electric co-ops decide on their own if they will honor net metering.
- Allows utilities to charge additional fees to increase minimum monthly charges to current and future rooftop solar customers.

Why have previous attempts to kill net metering failed?

- It is a very popular program that Wyoming citizens support.
- Net metering helps our economy by creating jobs in our communities and reducing utility costs.
- Wyomingites appreciate energy freedom — the ability to choose, reasonably finance, and produce power on their own property in the face of ever-increasing electricity rates.
- Net metering is simple and fair. It allows people to produce the power they use and gives full credit for excess generation if it is less than annual consumption.

Wyoming can grow its rooftop solar industry without harming utility customers.

The most recent comprehensive report on net metering in Wyoming, [The Benefits and Cost of Net metering Solar Generation in Wyoming](#), found that net metering actually provides **net benefits** to other energy customers.

- There is minimal rooftop solar in Wyoming — only nine out of every 1,000 households¹, with solar net generation representing **just 0.15 percent of the residential electricity sales in the state.**²
- It has taken over **20 years** with net metering in place for Wyoming’s solar to reach even this negligible level of penetration.
- Studies show that **cost shifting is not a concern** until rooftop solar reaches 5–10 percent of residential electricity sales. **That is more than 50x the current level in Wyoming.**³
- Wyoming is not California! In other states, net metering has grown quickly because of state incentives, high costs of energy, and high limits on solar sizing. Wyoming has none of these incentives.

¹ [U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2024](#)

² [Solar Energy Industries Association, 2023](#)

³ [Energy and Policy Institute, 2017](#)

Net metering helps our rural economy and supports our rural values.

Among the states, Wyoming ranks 49th for total installed solar capacity, and 50th — dead last — for solar jobs. Yet we have the 8th best solar resource in the nation.⁴ We need to diversify our economy and support innovation in the private sector to close this gap. We need policies that grow jobs and keep Wyoming a viable place to make a living.

- Rooftop solar uses an existing footprint to generate electricity, protecting Wyoming's wildlife, viewsheds, and rural heritage.
- Net metering supports local businesses and mainstreet jobs. Rooftop solar currently provides **165 well-paying jobs for 14 Wyoming businesses** across the state.²

Net metering customers do not make a profit.

- As with energy efficiency upgrades, solar homes simply use less grid power. If they produce excess generation, they receive credits on their bill, not cash.
- Net-metered systems in Wyoming are capped at the small capacity of 25kW — about the capacity needed to serve a large home or small Main Street business and too small to meaningfully help large businesses, schools, or irrigators.
- Net-metered customers continue to pay monthly electric bills, including a standard monthly base fee to their utility to pay for their grid and other use.

Net metering works well — there's no need to "fix" it.

- Net metering does not need a legislative solution. It's a fair and easy-to-understand policy that is working for Wyoming people.
- This bill would threaten long-term investments made by net-metered customers across Wyoming, making it more difficult for residents, senior centers, and local governments to save money by producing local, renewable power on-site. And, no, 5 years of grandfathering does not fix this.
- People who have invested in these systems are frustrated at repeated attempts by legislators to curtail private investment in energy choices despite the lack of evidence in the state that net metering is causing any harm to other utility customers.
- The most recent comprehensive report on net metering in Wyoming found that net metering is actually providing **net benefits** to other utility customers through grid resilience, helping with peak demand, reducing transmission losses, and avoiding new generation costs. Links to the full study and executive summary can be found [here](#).⁵
- Wyoming is experiencing growth in electricity demand. Rooftop solar, like energy efficiency, is a responsible way to reduce the strain on our system.

Contact the Minerals Committee and ask them to vote NO on "Small customer electricity generation!"

[CLICK HERE to create and send your message.](#)

If you prefer, you can message committee members directly at the addresses below:

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chris.rothfuss@wyoleg.gov ; donald.burkhart@wyoleg.gov; dalton.banks@wyoleg.gov;
jon.conrad@wyoleg.gov; scott.heiner@wyoleg.gov; chris.knapp@wyoleg.gov; jt.larson@wyoleg.gov;
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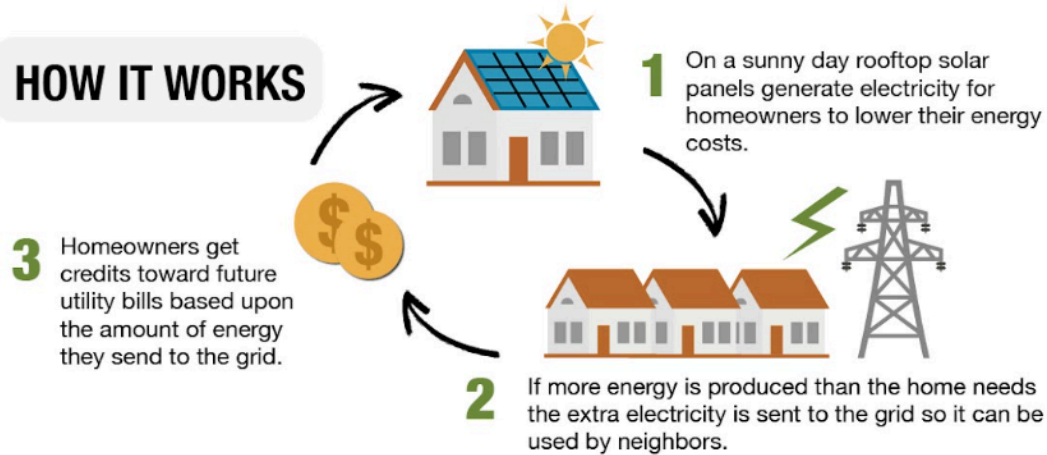
⁴ [Solar Energy Industries Association. 2023](#)

⁵ [Beach, McGuire. 2022](#)

NET METERING IN WYOMING

Net metering is a policy that allows owners of small, on-site renewable energy systems (homes, schools, and businesses) to **get credit** for the **extra power they supply** to the electricity grid. Net-metered customers still pay monthly electric bills, including a monthly hook-up fee.

HOW IT WORKS



Net metering saves taxpayers money with systems on public buildings like the Laramie Recreation Center, Rock Springs Airport, and Alta Vista Elementary School. **It also reduces operating costs at entities that provide essential services** including Natrona County Meals on Wheels, Riverton Community Entry Services, Lander Food Bank, Laramie Downtown Medical Clinic, Eastern Shoshone Boys and Girls Club, and the Frank B. Wise Business Center in Fort Washakie.