

Section 12: Consumer-Owned Generation

12.1 Electrical Emergency or Standby Systems

For most residential members, the easiest method for using a standby or emergency generator is to simply plug the desired appliances, tools, or devices directly into the electric outlets on the generator. Consult with the generator manufacturer or vendor to ensure that the generator is adequate for the intended purpose.

For emergency or standby generators that are to be connected into the wiring of a home or any other building or premises, the use of a generator transfer switch is required. The transfer switch will ensure that the generator cannot energize the Cooperative's service equipment or transformer, which would cause a serious safety hazard for line workers. Emergency or standby systems should be installed by a qualified licensed electrical contractor.

12.2 Generators Interconnected to and Operating in Parallel with the Electric Utility Grid

For cogeneration systems, or parallel operation of an electrical generator, the member shall consult the Cooperative early in the design phase. Generation facilities other than the Cooperative's may be permitted to interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system provided that all of the following are met throughout the life of the interconnection:

1. The safety of the general public and the personnel and equipment of the Cooperative shall in no way be reduced or impaired as a result of the interconnection.
2. The quality, reliability, and the availability of service to the Cooperative's other members shall not be diminished or impaired as a result of the interconnection.
3. The generator is connected through a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch that has an open and visible break verifiable by Cooperative personnel. The member shall supply a disconnect method acceptable to the Cooperative. The location shall be on the outside of the facility accessible to Cooperative personnel at all hours.
4. A written interconnection agreement between the Cooperative and member covering parallel operation of member generation and the proper coordination of protective devices has been executed and is in force.

12.3 Interconnection of Wind, Solar, or other Renewable Generation for Net Metering

In order to qualify as a net metering facility, a generation system must use solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, or biomass resources to generate electricity, as defined in the Arkansas Public Service Commission's Net-Metering Rules. The facility must have a generating capacity of not more than 25-kW for residential use or 300-kW for any other use, and be interconnected to a residential or commercial service billed under any of the Cooperative's rates. The net metering facility must be located on the member's premises and intended primarily to offset some or all of the energy usage at that location.

Installation requirements for net metered facilities are:

1. The renewable system is required to meet all local and national electrical codes including National Electrical Code (NEC), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). The Cooperative assumes no liability or responsibility for the installation or operation of the net metering system, and does not inspect the equipment, wiring, or installation beyond the interconnection to the meter.

2. The member shall submit a design drawing and product literature to the Cooperative's engineering department for approval prior to the installation. The member shall complete and submit a copy of the standard interconnection agreement at least 30 days prior to the planned interconnection.
3. After the equipment is installed, the member shall contact the Cooperative to schedule a site visit to commission the installation. The Cooperative will verify that the net metering equipment disconnects from the electric meter during a power outage, and that the electric meter indicates reverse power flow when the member's system is feeding back to the Cooperative. The interconnection agreement will be signed at the time the system is commissioned by the Cooperative.

The net metering equipment must remain disconnected from the electric meter until the system is commissioned by the Cooperative.