



**HIGH WEST ENERGY**



**SPARKS**

*Focused on people. Built on power.*

## Net Metering Programs

Net metering programs compensate on-site generators with energy credits based on the surplus energy it feeds back into utility grids. High West Energy provides the opportunity for our members who have installed their own solar or wind generators at their home or business to enroll in a net metering program. According to Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming state laws, High West Energy must offer these different incentives for our members with a capacity of no more than 25 kilowatts.

When a member has on-site generation and expects they will over-generate their own needs, our meter flows two ways by keeping track of how much energy is used as well as how much energy is being sent back to our grid. The credit we provide for the excess amount can then be used to offset any electricity needed to pull from our grid in a later month.

Turn the page to learn more about Net Metering.

AUGUST

[highwestenergy.coop](http://highwestenergy.coop)



On certain days, on-site generators may over produce what is needed for a household or business, while on other days, on-site renewable generation is not occurring due to low wind or overcast weather.

Recently, there have been debates in most state legislative bodies as the amount of installed on-site generation continues to rise. One aspect of this issue that is being discussed includes the cost shifting that is occurring from net metering by non-on-site generating accounts to those who have installed on-site generation. Several states have enacted new laws or regulations that have resulted in a lowering of the incentive required by the utility.

For members who are interested in buying on-site generation, **IT IS VITAL TO DO YOUR RESEARCH** and understand that state laws and regulations are most likely going to change, which will affect the net metering incentive required by High West Energy. Policy changes could affect the financial payback that comes along with net metering as well.

On-site generation can be a great resource and a positive advancement to supplying more distributed generation; however, we strive for the rates and incentives we provide to be as fair to all members as is practical. As net metering laws change, High West Energy wants to make sure our members are taken care of by understanding the practicality of different implementations.

**If you have questions about net metering, please call us at 307-245-3261. We are always here to understand how we can better serve you!**

## Net Metering Process



1.

Solar panels generate direct current (DC) electricity.

2.

An inverter converts the electricity produced by the solar panels from DC to alternating current (AC) for use in your home.

3.

Energy is used by your home.

4.

Net energy is measured by the meter going into the home or onto the grid.



# Frequently Asked Questions About Net Metering

Q

**Are there any High West Energy rebates for installing PV solar?**

» High West Energy offers a net-metering program to purchase any excess renewable generation from our members. We do not offer any rebates or incentives for members to purchase PV solar systems.

Q

**Will I still have a High West Energy bill?**

» Yes. As a member, you will receive a bill that will itemize any charges/debits for power in addition to the normal grid access charge and taxes associated with your account.

*Note: please contact High West Energy for current rates.*

Q

**Will my system still operate in the event of a High West Energy outage?**

» PV solar inverters are grid-tie systems and are required to meet Underwriters Laboratory (UL) 1741, which is a rapid system that allows shut down in the event of a grid outage. The PV system is designed to shut down if the High West Energy grid goes down. This is to protect the member's system as well as any utility personnel working to restore the outage. The PV solar system will only be able to continue operating if your system is installed with a battery backup. The PV solar will continue operating to charge your battery system while the batteries supply electricity for the home.

Q

**How can I tell if my system will generate enough to cover my energy needs?**

» Because energy consumption differs throughout the year (higher usage in the summer and lower in the winter), the best way to calculate system size requirements is to add up the last 12 months of energy usage for the home and compare it to the NREL estimate of what the system can produce.

Q

**How can I tell if my PV solar system is working?**

» Most PV solar inverter companies offer an app or website for monitoring the system production. The PV solar contractor should be able to assist with setting up this type of system monitoring.

Q

**How can I tell how much my system will generate?**

» One of the better free PV solar wattage calculators we have found is the PV WATTS Calculator from NREL ([pvwatts.nrel.gov/](http://pvwatts.nrel.gov/)). The website uses the physical address where the system will be installed. Then it will ask for the DC system size, module type, array type, array tilt and system orientation (south being the most ideal). Once all the information is entered, the calculator will provide a yearly estimate, as well as a monthly breakdown of the anticipated PV solar system production.

Q

**I want to install PV solar. What do I need to do?**

» The first step is to select a licensed PV solar contractor about the types of systems and the economics thereof. Once the system is sized and selected, the High West Energy net-metering agreement should be submitted, as well as a one-line diagram and site plan. We request that you submit this as well as the functional test fee prior to the system being installed. This will help prevent delays in activating your system.

All documents must be submitted before we can begin processing the member's Application for Interconnection. These documents can be filled out and submitted by the member, but most of the time, the contractor assists the member with filling out these documents. Once the Application for Interconnection is fully approved by High West Energy and the system has received a final permit from either the City or County permitting office, we will program the meter and the system will be all clear to connect to the grid.

Q

**Is PV solar worth it?**

» Every home is different. There are many factors to consider when calculating the value of installing PV solar. We find that members who are primarily home during the day tend to benefit more from installing PV solar.



- AUG 03-13 LARAMIE COUNTY FAIR; CHEYENNE, WYOMING
- AUG 04-07 PINE BLUFFS TRAIL DAYS
- AUG 13 CLINT MCCREA SUICIDE AWARENESS BULL RIDING EVENT; POTTER, NEBRASKA
- AUG 13-14 KIMBALL COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO; KIMBALL, NEBRASKA
- AUG 20 BUSHNELL DAYS



**OUTAGE CALLS  
24 HOURS A DAY  
(888) 834-1657**



HIGH WEST ENERGY, INC.  
6270 CR 212 • PO BOX 519  
PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082-0519  
LARAMIE COUNTY (307) 245-3261  
TOLL-FREE (888) 834-1657  
MONDAY-FRIDAY • 7:30 AM-5 PM

CHEYENNE SERVICE CENTER  
3302 I-80 SERVICE ROAD  
CHEYENNE, WY 82009  
MONDAY-FRIDAY • 8 AM-5 PM

# New Work Week

CONTINUING HIGH WEST ENERGY'S  
MISSION TO SERVE



**Jared Routh**  
CEO / General Manager

High West Energy's mission is to serve our members and communities by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy and services. As we adapt to the state of our economy and navigate different challenges, we continue to provide quality service for our members and customers. With these different challenges, beginning September 12, 2022, we will be implementing a 4-day work week. This means that our offices will be open Monday through Thursday.

This change was discussed extensively among employees, the leadership team and the board of directors. Even with this transition, we will continue to provide quality service to our members 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Our members are our priority and with this transition, there will be more efficiency within the cooperative. With the current work schedule, it can be difficult to accomplish tasks as employees may have different schedules. In lieu of hiring additional staff to cover the varying schedules, moving to a 4-day work week will allow all employees to be on the same schedule, which will increase the efficiency of taking care of our members. Not only will the efficiency of High West Energy increase, but it will also allow us to continue to control costs. In addition, this work schedule will allow High West Energy to reduce outage response times depending on location, which members will highly benefit from.

Members are always able to report outages by calling (307) 245-3261, (888) 834-1657, or by going to our website, [highwestenergy.coop](http://highwestenergy.coop).

We continue to look for opportunities to serve our members in the best ways possible and a 4-day work schedule will allow us to do so. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward with this transition.



While our offices will be closed on Fridays, High West Energy still provides opportunities for members to pay by phone using the Smarthub application, pay bills online at [highwestenergy.coop](http://highwestenergy.coop), or drop their payments in our drop boxes.

#### Our drop box locations include:

- Chatoga Avenue & Custer Street, Grover, Colorado
- 900 Sherman Street, Potter, Nebraska
- 2nd & Elm Street, Bushnell, Nebraska
- 300 East 3rd Street, Kimball, Nebraska
- 3355 East Pershing Boulevard (Albertsons), Cheyenne, Wyoming
- 3300 I-80 Service Road (High West Energy Cheyenne Service Center)
- 6270 County Road 212, Pine Bluffs Headquarters Office

Thank you for continuing to support and trust High West Energy.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Lerwick	District 11	(307) 630-1277
Gary Smith	District 12	(307) 649-2375
Ed Prosser	District 13	(307) 632-6068
Jerry Burnett	District 14	(970) 895-3386
Damon Birkhofer	District 15	(308) 235-7296
Kosha Olsen	District 16	(307) 214-4940
Kevin Thomas	District 17	(308) 879-4396

Meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday each month.

#### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jared Routh	CEO & General Manager
Dave Crouse	Chief Information Officer & HWDS Manager
Josh Gorman	Chief Financial Officer
David Golden	Engineering Manager
Ken Haas	Operations Manager
Konnie Keehnen	Member Services Manager
Carol Macy	Employee Services Manager
Marv Powell	WAFB Operations & HWW Manager

## Defend Yourself Against Scams

Scammers may pose as utility workers. They may say you have been overcharged and want to give you a refund, or they may claim that you are overdue on your bill and threaten to disconnect your service.

#### For your safety and security, please know that:

- If you do overpay, High West Energy will apply the credit to your next billing cycle
- We do not take banking information over the phone
- We will always identify ourselves as High West Energy
- We will always provide our personal names
- If you are not sure if it is a scam, ask to call back, and then call 307-245-3261