

New Prague Utilities Solar Program — Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Program Questions

1. What is the maximum system size allowed for residential and commercial solar?

Residential systems can be up to 40 kW AC. Commercial systems over 40 kW will be reviewed by New Prague Utilities on a case-by-case basis.

2. What is the current rate for overproduction credits?

Overproduction is credited at \$0.1396/kWh (subject to annual adjustment per the current fee schedule).

3. How are excess generation credits handled?

Excess energy credits roll over month to month. At the end of the year, if a customer has a credit on their overall utility account, a check can be issued upon request.

- a. Do credits expire?

No.

- b. Can credits be applied to other utility charges (water, sewer, trash)?

Yes. Overproduction credits are applied to the total utility account balance.

4. What are the current application and interconnection fees?

Application Fee: \$100

Interconnection Fee: Approximately \$1,300, depending on equipment needs and number of inspections.

5. Can the fees be paid by credit card?

Yes.

6. How should the application and supporting documents be submitted?

Documents can be submitted via email to Bruce Breimers@ci.new-prague.mn.us or Margaret Mbartyzal@ci.new-prague.mn.us. This remains the preferred method at this time.

7. What is the typical approval turnaround time?

Approvals are typically issued within 2–3 weeks of complete application submission.

8. Can adjustments or revisions be made after approval? Is there a fee?

Yes, revisions can be submitted via email to Margaret. There is no fee for revisions.

9. Who is the best contact for application and interconnection questions?

Margaret is the primary contact for questions and submissions.

10. Are any rebates or incentives offered by New Prague Utilities for solar installations?

No, there are currently no utility-sponsored solar incentives.

11. Is there a grid access fee for solar customers?

Yes. For residential systems, a \$4.50 per kW monthly grid access fee applies to all capacity above 3 kW.

12. Are there system size restrictions that affect the grid access fee?

This fee applies to all residential systems up to 40 kW.

Engineering & Technical Questions

13. What is the required inverter power factor?

Inverter power factor must be 0.98 or greater.

14. Can Milbank K4977 add-on lugs and Eaton MSR taps be used for PV interconnection?

These connectors are acceptable; however, the connection must be made on the line side of the utility meter.

15. Are backfed breakers in the main service panel allowed?

No. Backfeeding through a breaker is not allowed. All connections must be made on the line side of the utility meter.

16. Does your off-peak program affect solar systems?

No. The off-peak program is separately metered and does not impact PV interconnection.

17. Are any labeling requirements above NEC standards required?

No. NEC labeling requirements are sufficient.

18. Is a witness/anti-islanding test required? What is the process?

Yes. After the system has passed state inspection, a witness test by New Prague Utilities staff is required. The installer must schedule this test prior to system commissioning.

19. Who should contractors contact to schedule the witness test?

Please call our main office at (952) 758-4401 to schedule.

20. What does the commissioning process involve?

Submit state-approved inspection documents via email Mbartyzal@ci.new-prague.mn.us. A site visit will be coordinated if required. System must pass the witness test before going online.

21. How should the production meter be wired?

The production meter must be installed after the solar disconnect. Line side of the production meter connects to the PV system. Load side connects to the line side of the utility meter.

22. Is a bypass lever required when replacing the utility meter socket?

Yes. If the utility meter socket is being replaced, it must include a lever bypass.

Disconnect / Reconnect Procedures

23. Is an inspection required prior to reconnecting a disconnected system?

Not if there have been no changes to the system wiring. If modifications are made, inspection may be required.

24. When are disconnects/reconnects scheduled?

Disconnects/reconnects are available Monday–Thursday, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

25. Who should be contacted to schedule a disconnect or reconnect?

Contact our main office line at (952) 758-4401.

26. Can contractors cut the utility meter seal?

No. Only New Prague Utilities staff are authorized to cut seals or enter the meter socket.

27. Can contractors remove utility meters?

No. Only New Prague Utilities staff may remove meters or make disconnects.