



NET METERING PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The information in this document is subject to change without notice.

July 2023

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Swift Current's Net Metering program provides The City of Swift Current customers with the opportunity to generate up to 100 kW (dc) of power, using an eligible energy resource, to offset their own power use.

Power you generate is used by your building first. Any extra power credits are carried forward to the next month and applied to that month's power use.

A bi-directional meter will be installed by the City of Swift Current to meter the power coming from and going to the City grid. A solar production meter must be installed to measure the energy produced by the solar panel system, at the cost of the applicant.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all residents of The City of Swift Current including businesses.

Power must be solar generated by capturing sunlight and converting it to electricity through panels.

All generation equipment used must be certified for use in Canada. For more information on Canadian Electrical Codes, the Electrical Inspection Act and Saskatchewan interpretations visit tsask.com.

2.1 PROJECT SIZE

The program allows for projects up to 100 kW dc nameplate generating capacity.

3. CREDIT RATES

The City of Swift Current will bank and credit the extra power you generate at a rate of \$0.075/kWhr. Each month, the dollar amount of electricity generated that you send to the City of Swift Current grid is subtracted from the dollar amount of consumed electricity you took from the City of Swift Current Grid, and the excess will be displayed as a dollar credit on the electricity portion of your bill, for use in the following month.

Keep in mind that when you're using the power your system produces, you're using it at your standard retail rate (e.g. for residential customers it's about \$0.16486/kWhr in 2023). It's only when you're generating extra power beyond what you use that it's priced at \$0.075/kWhr. You can carry forward any unused credits on your bill until you move or close your account. Credits are not paid out; they are carried forward and applied to your next month's power use.

4. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

The Net Metering Program participant may cancel their participation in the program at anytime. Your participation will automatically terminate if you terminate your account with the City of Swift Current for electrical service at the location the solar system is connected to the grid. Participation in this program is

non transferrable. New owners/tenants will be offered participation in the available program at the time when a new City of Swift Current electrical service account is changed.

5. SUMMARY OF COSTS

- I. Customer will need to have a meter box for a solar production meter installed at their cost, the City of Swift Current will provide the meters at no additional cost.
- II. Electrical Permits: You are required to obtain an electrical permit before beginning any construction of your project. For more information, including permit prices, visit the electrical inspections page at <https://www.tsask.ca/electrical>. The Electrical Inspection department reviews the system relevant to the participant's side of the meter.
- III. Building Permits: You are required to inquire with the City of Swift Current Building Department about any building permits required for the project
- IV. Interconnection Costs: You are responsible for all costs associated with connecting your project to the City of Swift Current's grid.
- V. Project Costs: You are responsible for all costs associated with the purchase and installation of your project, including equipment and contractor costs.

6. APPLICATION AND INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

6.1 APPLICATION FORM

- I. Complete the Net Metering Program application form and include all required information. You are also responsible to obtain any permits and approvals required by your local municipal bylaws.
- II. After your application has been received by City of Swift Current Light & Power department, the applicant will be notified of any outstanding issues, or the approval for the application

Checklist:

- Electrical single line diagram, drawn by an electrician or engineer, from the generating system to the main AC breaker and to the grid, showing specific detail of the equipment to be used, including model, type, wattage size, wiring gauge, etc.
- Site location map, including location of generating system and City of Swift Current meter location.
- Specification sheets for all equipment to be installed (i.e. inverters, modules, panels, etc)

6.2 ELECTRICAL REVIEW AND PERMIT

This step should be completed at the same time as the Net Metering Program application form. Saskatchewan Electrical Inspections will review your project to ensure it meets Canadian Electrical Code – Saskatchewan Interpretation requirements. For more information, visit the electrical page at <https://www.tsask.ca/electrical>.

6.3 ELECTRICAL PERMIT

Your contractor must obtain an electrical permit before beginning any work on your system. An electrical permit is required before an on-site electrical inspection of your system is conducted and installation of a bi-directional meter can be completed. This step should be completed at the same time as the Net Metering Program application form.

6.4 SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Once you have obtained the electrical permit, finalize your project with your supplier and arrange for the solar generation system to be installed.

If you change the equipment used or generation size (kW) of your project from what was originally submitted, you will have to provide updated/ new exhibits to the City of Swift Current Light & Power department, and submit the updated/ new exhibits to Saskatchewan Electrical Inspections.

6.5 ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

Once your system is installed and tested to work correctly, you must contact Saskatchewan Electrical Inspections to arrange an on-site inspection of the project. This can be done a week or two in advance to minimize delays. The electrical inspector requires the contractor/electrician to be present during the on-site inspection. An electrical inspection cannot be done without first applying to the City of Swift Current Net Metering Program and obtaining an electrical permit.

You can contact Electrical Inspections at <https://www.tsask.ca/electrical/>

6.6 BI-DIRECTIONAL METER AND SOLAR PRODUCTION METER INSTALLATION

Once your project has passed inspection without errors, a bi-directional meter and solar production meter will be scheduled for installation by the City of Swift Current Light & Power department. Solar generation systems must NOT be turned on until the bi-directional meter and solar production meter has been installed by the City of Swift Current Light & Power department. You or your contractor/electrician is not required to be present for the installation of the meters. Once the meter has been installed, notice will be given that the system can now be turned on.

7.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 SOLAR PRODUCTION METER

The customer is required to have a meter socket installed at their cost between their solar panel disconnect and the solar point of delivery to measure the power production of the solar system. The City of Swift Current Light & Power department will supply the solar production meter and bi-directional meters at no cost.

7.2 SELF GENERATION AND POWER OUTAGES

Supplying your own power during a power outage while you are connected to the grid is a concept known as islanding. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and Underwriter Laboratories Inc (cUL) current CSA Standard 22.2 – 107.1/UL 1741 states that during a power outage all systems that are tied to the electrical power grid must be shut down due to safety. For this reason, we require generation facilities connected to the City of Swift Current distribution system not be permitted to operate during a power outage and that all generation facilities shall be equipped with protection systems, which detect a power island condition and cause the generator to cease to deliver power to the City of Swift Current distribution system.

7.3 ONCE YOU ARE IN THE PROGRAM

Any changes to your account or services with the City of Swift Current may result in a change to your Program participation and agreement. As an example:

- Selling or renting a facility where the system operates requires a change in the agreement holder
- Increasing the size of the system requires a new submission application into the program.
- Account must remain in good standing
- Program participants agreements are not transferrable