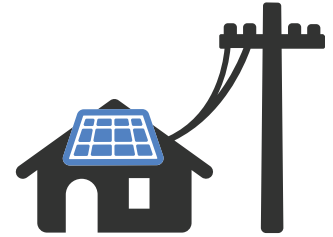


DEMAND AND YOUR SOLAR PANELS

The demand rate applies to all rate classes, including those with solar panels on a net-metering agreement. Through a net-metering agreement, you can connect your system to the grid to return any excess power from your system and then tap into it anytime your system isn't generating enough energy to meet your needs.

This grid access adds tremendous value to your solar investment. Without it, you would have to invest in additional storage and generating equipment, rely on alternative fuel sources, and significantly alter your energy use habits. So, whether you use a lot of energy or just a little, we all need a reliable distribution system to be there. The demand rate ensures that all members pay their fair share of the system's operating and maintenance costs.



SOLAR OR THE GRID

Members with solar panels can reduce energy charges by shifting electric consumption to peak generating periods. However, unless you go completely off-grid, there will still be a peak interval during the billing period where you rely on the distribution system for co-op power.

In this example, this solar-generating member is a negative energy consumer from about 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m. Then this member's energy use exceeds their production and they begin using co-op power to supplement their needs. They continue using energy from the grid into the evening hours and hit their demand of 8kW at 7 p.m. The demand in this scenario is probably due to air conditioning and household appliance use that is typical on a warm August evening.



SAVING ON THE DEMAND RATE

Recommendations to manage demand are the same for all members. Since demand is driven by the amount of power required at once, staggering the use of major appliances is the easiest way to keep demand charges low.

Your peak consumption may not always align with the peak output of your solar generating system, and you are most likely going to hit your demand when you operate appliances at night, or when solar generating conditions aren't optimal.

