

## Community Solar – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Whom do I talk to about becoming a subscriber or my active subscription?**

A: You need to locate a generation owner who offers subscriptions within Ameren Illinois' service territory to begin the process. The Generation Owner will provide answers to your questions related to new or existing subscriptions which may include the following: how do I get a subscription, whom do I pay to get a subscription, when does my subscription begin, how do I increase my subscription amount, will I receive a rebate?

### **Q: Whom do I speak with about billing questions?**

A: Questions related to the terms and conditions for your subscription contact your Generation Owner. Questions related to your usage, delivery & supply costs, and/or taxes on your Ameren Illinois bill contact Ameren Illinois' Customer Service at 1-800-232-2477.

### **Q: I am being served by a RES, can I still participate in Community Solar (Aggregated Net Metering)?**

A: Yes, we advise Retail Electric Suppliers that they are also required to provide Community Solar/Aggregated Net Metering to Ameren Illinois' customers.

### **Q: I am an hourly supply customer under Rider RTP/PSP/HSS; can I be a subscriber to a community solar facility?**

A: Yes, locate/contact a generation owner.

### **Q: How do I transfer my subscription if I move?**

A: Ameren Illinois' provides a seamless transfer of your electric service, which may include the portability of your subscription upon your request. You will want to view the terms and conditions of your subscription to determine if there are any geographic limitations.

### **Q: What happens to my subscription, if I move out of the Ameren Illinois' service territory?**

A: Please review your subscriptions terms & conditions for these details.

### **Q: Can subscribers log into the portal?**

A: No, the Aggregated Net Metering Portal is just for the Generation Owner; however, you can access your account through Ameren Illinois.

**Q: Do I need a special meter to be a subscriber?**

A: No. The existing meter at your house will support your subscription.

**Q: Can I subscribe to multiple generation units?**

A: Yes.

**Q: I already have net metering from my on-sight generator. Can I also subscribe to my community solar facility?**

A: Yes, locate/contact a generation owner.

**Q: As a subscriber, can I give my excess generation to one of my other account(s) or to another customer's account(s)?**

A: No, subscriptions and any excess generation are account specific.

**Q: As a subscriber, does my excess generation roll over to the next billing?**

A: It will depend on the delivery service classification. Accounts served under DS1 or DS2, any excess generation is carried forward to the customer selected annual anniversary date, either April or October. Accounts served under any other delivery service classification, generation is netted out each billing period.

**Q: Does Ameren require an NEM agreement for each customer with a community solar agreement? Is that the same thing as the NEM application on the website? If not, could you provide a copy of that agreement so I know what it looks like?**

A: Our understanding is that the Illinois law requires an application signed by the customer in order to enroll the customer with Net Metering service. Please see the excerpt below from Part 465.35 of the Illinois Administrative Code:

Section 465.35 – Net Metering Application and Enrollment Procedure

d) Each completed application for net metering services shall be in writing or submitted via an electronic application process by the electricity supplier and shall include:

- 1) The customer's name, contact information and corresponding service location where the proposed net metering generation facility or facilities are located;
- 2) The name plate capacity rating of the proposed net metering generation facility or facilities; and
- 3) Sufficient information to permit the electricity supplier to determine whether any facility on the application qualifies as an eligible renewable electrical generating facility.

Please use the link below to review the application used by Ameren Illinois customers to enroll in net metering. For customers enrolling via subscription in Aggregated Net Metering, it is not required that the enrollment be sent to our Renewables team, but you should check with your legal counsel on your obligations to retain the application.

**Q: Can Generation Owners obtain early access to the Aggregated Net Metering Portal?**

A: After considering, the generator owners may have dozens and potentially up to 200+ residential Subscribers to individual generator units, our Distributed Energy Resource team has determined that an earlier access date to the portal is appropriate for Aggregated Net Metering Generator Owners/Developers. At this time, we have not yet determined when that access date will be, but we recognize that after a generator owner starts construction on their facilities, it is likely that they have made the financial and organizational commitment to complete its construction.

**Q: Can Generation Owners have access to customer data for subscription sizing purposes?**

A: Please note that the customer MUST specifically authorize any release of customer usage data. In general, a "typical" Ameren Illinois residential customer who uses gas appliances for space heating purposes uses 10,000kWh annually. A "typical" Ameren Illinois residential customer who uses electric appliances for space heating purposes uses 18,000kWh annually. Residential customer usage data is accessible by authorized 3<sup>rd</sup> parties through the Share My Data functionality, also known as Green Button Connect My Data, which is based on national standards for providing data access. The Company adopted this functionality as part of its Smart Grid implementation efforts. The Share My Data functionality enables Third Parties to register to retrieve usage data from customers who authorize the release of data. Third Parties who want to be listed as a potential data recipient – use the following link to be taken to the registration page. <https://www.ameren.com/illinois/business-partners/account-data-management>

**Q: What current charges will be credited in a net metering scenario (electric kWh rate, distribution rate, demand rate, etc)?**

A: Per the enabling legislation, Subscribers to a Community Solar generation facility will have their allocated output applied to their supply service billing. Please be aware that transmission service in Illinois is defined by law as a delivery service.

**Q: For Community Solar projects, are credits given at the same rate as that of each subscriber?**

A: Depending on the credit, cost of kWh and output there are two different answers:

- The output from the generator capacity allocated to Subscribers is converted into kWh, so the amount of kWh applied to a Subscriber's bill is a function of the amount of capacity subscribed to, and for hourly priced customers, the output and price during any particular hour while the generator is producing.
- The actual value of output delivered to Subscribers is also a function of the price they pay for their supply service, and the customers have their choice of electric suppliers in Illinois. So, two Subscribers

can have identical amounts of output from the same generator, but one might receive more financial benefit because their supply service price per kWh is higher than the other.

**Q: In a Community Solar scenario, how is unallocated production priced and who receives the credit and in what form?**

A: Generator owners may sell any unsubscribed capacity to the utility through Qualified Facilities. For Ameren Illinois, please see Rider QF – Qualified Facilities for more detail.

Since QF is an optional service and because generator owners can sell excess output on either an hourly or fixed price basis, generator owners need to provide a completed application to the utility before they can receive service under Qualified Facilities.

**Q: Ameren builds the community solar (CS) option into its existing net energy metering (NM) tariff, rather than creating a separate tariff. There may be different terms and conditions that apply to CS and NEM systems that would make a separate CS tariff easier. It is also confusing to try to understand which customers and subscribers apply to which billing methodologies, which could lead to processing errors. Having these two programs separated out will alleviate some of this confusion.**

A: While we appreciate this perspective, we respectfully disagree. Regardless of whether the generator is on-site or located remotely, net metering has two basic components: 1) Which services are netted (i.e. supply service only, or supply and delivery service) and 2) Whether any over-generation is carried-forward for use in subsequent months. We believe that forcing customers and coworkers to be aware that there are different tariffs for net metering depending on the generator location, and then knowing which one to consult, creates unnecessary confusion and frustration.

In looking at the following question, it appears that you may believe that the Community Solar generation facilities are served under the provisions of the Net Metering tariffs. Please remember that "net metering" has a specific meaning in Illinois as prescribed by the Public Utilities Act, and that generators have multiple choices for monetizing the net output of their facility, including service under a Net Metering tariff or, as allowed by FEJA, under a utility's qualified facilities tariff.

**Q: Ameren's tariff seems to only apply to subscribers of a community solar project. Are the requirements for CS Projects (i.e. whether the CS project must be a customer with a meter) included in the QF tariff or somewhere else?**

A: Any facility connected to our distribution system is a Customer, and receives service under the tariffs available to all other Customers. For Customers who are generators providing subscriptions under the aggregated net metering provisions of FEJA, they will have a meter installed capable of recording both generator output and usage at the generator site. As identified in FEJA, these generators are eligible to sell the output from any unsubscribed capacity to Ameren under the Company's existing Rider QF – Qualified

Facilities. QF is an optional service, and customers must make application to receive billing under that tariff, and identify whether they want compensation under the hourly or fixed price options.

**Q: Billing cycles are not addressed in this tariff. There should be a description for the process to address when subscriber credits are applied versus when the monthly bill is calculated.<sup>[2]</sup>**

**[1] See, e.g. SUBSCRIBED AND UNSUBSCRIBED INTERESTS IN CS PROJECT section of ComEd's RIDER POGCS, Sheet 344.8, available at**

**<https://www.comed.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/MyAccount/MyBillUsage/CurrentRates/Ratebook.pdf>, or SRCS CREDIT BILLING section of the Public Service Company of Colorado, Schedule SRCS, Sheet 114D, available at <https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xcel/PDF/Regulatory/CO-Rates-&-Regulations-Entire-Electric-Book.pdf>**

A: Subscriber credits for Ameren Illinois customers are applied when the Subscriber/customer's bills are calculated. There is no change to an Ameren Illinois customer's billing date/bill cycle when they become a Subscriber, and no delay in applying the output from the allotted generation capacity to a Subscriber's metered usage.