



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Power On: October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of McDonough Power Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all

been challenged to operate differently, and McDonough Power has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business

continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. **6224C2A-116B**

In addition, we made the tough decision to cancel our annual meeting. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times. For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

While we certainly missed visiting with you in person, we found new ways to stay connected. We partnered with other local organizations to feed members of the community, we provided funding to local health departments for personal protective equipment (PPE), and increased social media engagement efforts.

I tell you about all these efforts not to boast about McDonough Power but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too. We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1938, McDonough Power Cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.

Then. Now. Always.
We’re proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn



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Installing solar?

Today's changing energy landscape brings more attention to renewable energy resources. McDonough Power supports generation that's safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible. We understand the complexities of these electric issues and have a process to allow interconnection of distributed generation systems owned by members and want to be your trusted partner in renewable energy.

Co-op policy requires members contact us for approval before installing a distributed generation system so we can ensure the interconnection and parallel operation is safe, reliable and properly metered. We must study the feasibility of the installation and in some cases apply system upgrades.

Here are steps to guide you, which are outlined in full detail at mcdonoughpower.com. Go to the Member Services tab and follow the Distributed Generation & Net Metering link.

STEP 1 – do your homework

Before deciding to purchase generating equipment, members should consider the economics of purchasing the equipment and determine if generating electricity will lower monthly power costs. We have an analysis tool available on our website. Please call our office to discuss prior to signing any agreements with developers.

Members considering distributed generation should consider the following:

- Cost of the required \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy – contact your insurance agent for a quote. Here is the insurance requirement:
 - Insurance – Prior to connection of the Facilities to the System and throughout the term of this Agreement, Member shall carry a liability insurance policy issued by a licensed insurance carrier with an A.M. Best rating of the B+ or better that provides protection against claims for damages resulting from (i) bodily injury, including wrongful death; and (ii) property damage arising out of the Facilities. The limits of such insurance policy shall be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and the insurance certificate

must show the Cooperative as a party with an additional interest. If the capacity of the Facilities exceeds 25KW, the certificate must name the Cooperative as an additional insured. Member must provide the Cooperative with a certificate of insurance, confirming the coverage and limits and confirming the interest of the Cooperative.

- Cost of system upgrades – larger projects may require larger equipment, which is the member's expense

Net metering is available to members for projects of up to 10 kW (DC ratings of panels, not inverter). The Net Metering Policy available on our website defines the particulars involved if the renewable system is generating electricity sufficient to offset a portion of your consumption or generating more than you consume.

Here are details included in the net metering policy:

- Excess kWh generated are given a monetary credit and applied to a subsequent bill for energy-related charges only **11125B7A-1004A**
- Excess generation will be paid an Hourly Marginal Electricity Value, which is the average of the hourly MISO Day Ahead Locational Marginal Prices – usually around \$.026
- Billing and true-up period runs Jan. 1 to Dec. 31
- When the billing period ends in December, all unused credits are eliminated
- Members who participate in net metering do not qualify for any other incentive rate

Members interested in installing a distributed generation system larger than 10 kW (DC) in the co-op's service territory can refer to our Qualifying Facility Policies available on our website.

As explained in the qualifying facility policies, distributed generation systems above 10 kW and up to 100 kW (AC) have a couple of options for interconnection:

- Standard Qualifying Facility

- Initial metering charge
- Monthly operations, maintenance, service and administrative charges
- Interconnection costs may apply
- Monthly settlement +/- for energy and capacity delivered back to the grid – avoided cost

■ Waived Qualifying Facility

- In exchange for not assessing monthly service, administration, operation, and maintenance charges, the member waives the payment of the avoided cost value of electric energy and electric capacity delivered back to the grid
- Interconnection costs may apply

STEP 2 – submit an application

The application form to be submitted to the co-op can be found in the Distributed Generation section of mcdonoughpower.com. Please include specs of your particular system as well as a one-line engineering diagram.

STEP 3 – approval & cost estimate

Now that we know the specifics of your system, we can assess its impact to ensure it interconnects correctly and safely with our system. Our engineering team will discuss final details with you or your developer. Based on the size of your system and location of interconnection, we may need to include our Power Supplier in the analysis and approval process.

We'll contact you when approval of your application is complete and will provide a written cost estimate of any equipment necessary to accommodate the interconnection, including any need for upgrades, improvements or operational restrictions. An Interconnection Agreement will be executed at this time, which will need completed and returned. A sample Interconnection Agreement is available online. Thereafter, your developer may commence installation of the system at any time.

STEP 4 – system installation & interconnection

Please contact our engineering team as your system is being installed for any questions. The recommended

specifications for placement of the disconnect and signage can be found in the Interconnection Agreement. It's imperative that your disconnect remain open and locked until the co-op performs its final inspection.

Once installation is complete, BEFORE the system is energized, contact us to make an appointment for inspection of the system. This is an ideal time to perform a final review of our Interconnection Agreement to assure you're ready for interconnection.

STEP 5 – final inspection & energization

The day has arrived! A member of our team will meet at your service location to inspect the point of interconnection. If you have satisfied the conditions presented in the Interconnection Agreement and the co-op finds the system safe, reliable and functional, a bi-directional meter will be installed and your system will be energized. While on site, we will obtain signatures on the Authorization to Energize and provide you a copy.

You are now a proud distributed generation member of the cooperative. Congratulations!

POST INSTALL – net meter billing:

Your future bills will look different as you begin generating energy.

Our billing statements for net metered service locations provide two kilowatt-hour readings – kilowatt-hours (kWh) delivered and Member Generated, kWh received. Any online monitoring technology will likely show

more kilowatts generated from month-to-month than what will be on your bill – that's because you will consume the kilowatts you can and only the excess will flow back through our bi-directional meter.

The net of kWh received minus kWh delivered, if positive, is multiplied by the hourly marginal electricity value (HMEV) for the month and banked for the billing period. We display the usage banked for the period, in addition to the cumulative total banked for the calendar year.

Members who receive e-bill notifications should wait until the bill is received in the mail – as we must manually manipulate each bill to show proper banking. **525HH124-951B**

Our program is approved by our board of directors, is not mandated by the state and is subject to change. The rates associated with net metering will continually be modified to ensure we are managing rate disparity among all rate classes.

After you've completed and returned the application form, we will provide specific interconnection requirements and estimated costs. Remember, the co-op can only assist with information pertaining to connecting to our system. The specifics regarding the necessary equipment and engineering on the member side of the meter should be directed to an electrician or chosen vendor.

We want to be your trusted partner in renewable energy and look forward to working with you through the process.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models. Source: energystar.gov



Knowing what to do around a downed power line could save your life

Mother Nature can be unpredictable. Whether it's a thunderstorm or blizzard, severe storms can interfere with power distribution or bring down lines. What's the most important thing to remember about a downed power line? **DO NOT GO NEAR IT** for any reason.

After a storm has caused damage, be alert and slow down. **535D8-266B** Don't attempt to drive over downed lines or through water, over snow or debris that could be covering downed lines. Driving over a line can pull more lines or related equipment down. If you encounter a downed line, pull over and report it to 9-1-1.



Here's some additional information about downed lines:

Q: Can I tell if a downed line is energized by looking?

A: No, there's no way to tell. Always assume a downed line is live even if it's not buzzing or sparking.

Q: What should I do if I'm in an accident involving a power line?

A: **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle. It's always safer to remain inside, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. Co-op personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.

Q: Is there any reason I should get out of the vehicle?

A: Yes, but only if it is on fire. If that's the case, make a clean jump from the vehicle without touching it, and hop with feet together as far as you can—preferably 50 or more feet away.

Q: What happens to the electrical current when a line is down?

A: Once a power line is in contact with a vehicle, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and

it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you. That's why you should hop or shuffle once you make a clean jump from the vehicle. Always keep your feet together – think of hopping like a bunny.

Q: What else can I do?

A: Put your window down and yell to others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run to the energized area or touch anything that's energized.

Q: What if I can't tell what type of line is down?

A: It doesn't matter – stay in your vehicle and wait for the utility personnel to arrive.

Q: Are there any other instances when these same safety tips apply?

A: Yes, the same rules apply to any type of equipment in contact with overhead lines.

Q: Why am I safe in my vehicle?

A: Because you are not a path for electricity while in a vehicle.

Q: What should I do if the windshield is broken and the downed wire is in my vehicle?

A: Stay in the vehicle and do not touch the wire or attempt to use other objects to move it.

Q: What if I hit a pad-mounted transformer in a yard?

A: Pad-mounted transformers house electrical equipment connected to underground power lines. The same safety precautions apply to all of these cabinets as the voltage could stray if it's damaged.

For more information, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout *The Wire*. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.