

MYTH: An interconnection agreement is not required between my electric cooperative and me.

FACT: To ensure your safety and that of your fellow cooperative member-owners, you must notify your co-op if you intend to install a distributed generation system and an interconnection agreement must be in place. Whenever a generating resource is connected and providing power, your co-op must be aware of the system so that line personnel and other employees are not put in harm's way. There are a number of safety mechanisms that must be taken into account and put into place with member-owned generating facilities.

MYTH: The grid acts as a battery for my excess kilowatt-hours.

FACT: The grid does not act as a battery for excess energy as it is not capable of storing electricity in a manner that is cost competitive with other technologies.

MYTH: If I install a distributed generation system, and my co-op requires an interconnection agreement, then my co-op is responsible for the maintenance of my system.

FACT: Your electric co-op does not have responsibility for the maintenance of member-owned distributed generation systems. The member-owner who owns the resource is responsible for all necessary maintenance and repair investments and activities.

MYTH: Owning and operating a distributed generation system on my property does not present any additional safety issues for my cooperative.

FACT: Each type of generating source often has specific requirements. For example, in the case of a rooftop solar system, the International Fire Code requires a construction permit, specific signage and markings, properly spaced access points,

and smoke ventilation, just to name a few. These measures are to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the system and to protect our member-owners and employees who interact with the power grid. If our linemen are not aware of an interconnected system, they could be at risk of serious injury when working on the distribution system. These requirements also support the protection of local safety personnel, such as the fire department, by ensuring that there is appropriate system notification in the case of fire to prevent injury.

MYTH: I don't need to have any additional insurance for my distributed generation system.

FACT: In most states, distributed generation owners are required to provide proof of general liability insurance as part of the interconnection agreement. Check with your electric cooperative for the specific insurance requirements needed for the system you are considering.

MYTH: Solar generation production matches my cooperative's peak demand periods.

FACT: Peak production for solar generation is typically between 2-4 p.m. and consumer electric use generally peaks in the early evening, which means there is a mismatch between energy production and energy consumption. In order to maximize the potential benefits of distributed generation, it's important to size the system properly and invest in the technology that coincides with providing the most output during your peak-use period.

MYTH: On a cloudy day, my solar generation system will produce the same amount of energy as it does on a sunny day.

FACT: Solar energy production is at its highest on a sunny day; cloudy skies can significantly impact production. Research

shows that production may drop 60-70 percent or more on a cloudy day versus a mostly sunny day.

MYTH: My electric cooperative isn't engaged in renewable energy.

FACT: Your electric cooperative supports renewable energy and responsible environmental policies that balance the needs of the environment while providing affordable, safe and reliable power. Along with Hoosier Energy, your electric cooperative's power supplier and 17 other local electric cooperatives, we have invested millions of dollars into renewable resources, such as wind, solar, hydro, and landfill methane gas into our portfolios. In addition, your cooperative has a policy to obtain 10% of its energy from renewable resources by 2025. Recently, Hoosier Energy and their member cooperatives have invested in building 10MW of solar projects throughout southern Indiana. Each solar facility produces enough power in a year to serve 150 average cooperative homes.

MYTH: Your electric co-op wants to hinder residential solar installations.

FACT: Electric cooperatives are here to serve their members. If a member-owner would like to install solar, the co-op wants to be a trusted resource, not a barrier.

MYTH: Electric cooperatives buy electric from solar members at a lower rate but sell it to members at a higher rate.

FACT: When electric co-ops sell electric energy to their member-owners, they are selling more than just energy services. For example, transmission and distribution infrastructure. When the member-owner sells to their co-op, the member-owner is only selling energy services. The solar member does not own transmission and distribution.