

Helpful Information When Installing a Distributed Generation System

1. Implement energy efficiency.

Implementing energy efficiency measures in advance of installing a distributed generation system can save money by reducing overall energy or water consumption. This can help reduce the size of the distributed generation system that is needed to meet your energy needs.

2. Do your homework.

Contact Barron Electric's Member Services Department prior to starting the project. Barron Electric offers a rebate on solar and wind site assessments. Call for more details. Choose a skilled professional who is knowledgeable in distributed generation systems.

3. Know your cooperative's rate structure and interconnection and purchased power policies.

Barron Electric can review the rate structure and policy for distributed generation.

4. Analyze your electric load and understand your distributed generation system.

Understanding your electricity use and overall energy needs will help you determine if a distributed generation system is a good investment. This will also help determine the size and type of system needed, and how your energy use fluctuates throughout the day.

5. Determine the costs upfront.

Determine the initial upfront costs, as well as ongoing maintenance and repair costs. Some items to consider include installation and interconnection costs, insurance, taxes, etc.

6. Research potential incentives and tax credits.

The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (www.dsireusa.org) is one source of information on incentives and policies that support renewables and energy efficiency in the U.S. The site features an interactive map, which allows users to click on a state to see a comprehensive listing of federal and state incentives, credits, exemptions, grants, loans and rebates.

7. Understand responsibilities.

The owner of the distributed energy system is responsible for obtaining the proper equipment and ensuring that all requirements of the cooperative's interconnection agreement are met, including paying any necessary costs. A state inspector is responsible for conducting safety inspections. Once all interconnection requirements are met and the safety and integrity of the system meet the necessary criteria, then the cooperative is responsible for the final stages of interconnection. Ongoing maintenance and system repairs are the owner's responsibility.

8. Know safety requirements.

9. Choose a reputable vendor.

- Ask for references.
- Check online consumer reviews.
- Ask for third-party input from credible resources.
- Ask questions listed.

Refer to the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners at NABCEP, or to locate certified installers and practitioners in your area.

Questions to ask a prospective solar photo-voltaic vendor

1. What is the total installed cost of the system?
2. How much money is due upfront, and what is the schedule of payments?
3. If my energy use changes, will I be able to add more panels later?
4. Do I need a new roof now in order to install solar?
5. When was your company established and how much solar has it installed to date?
6. Can your company provide a list of the projects and references for them?
7. Does your company have a standard insurance certificate with adequate general liability coverage of \$1 million or more? (Ask to see this.)
8. Does your company have professional liability insurance? (Ask to see this.)
9. Does your company carry Workers Compensation? (Ask to see this.)
10. Are your solar installers North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Electric trained and certified?
11. In which country are the solar panels and inverters you are selling made?
12. How much of my energy use would my solar system cover?
13. How much would my monthly energy bills be after installation?
14. How long would my payback period be on my solar system? What are the key assumptions associated with my payback that may impact that result?



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