Net Metering Policy Summary								
State	**Authority**	**Capacity Limits**	**Carry-over of NEG**	**Surcharge or additional cost for connection**	**Avoided Cost or Retail Rate for NEG**	**Community or virtual net metering**	**Multiple accounts (aggregate)**	**Application**
Montana	69-8-601 through 69-8-605, MCA	50 kW	Month-to-month. Credit to utility at the end of the year	No, prohibited in statute	Retail	No	No	IOUs that have restructured in accordance with Title 69, chapter 8
Wyoming	37-16-101 through 37-16-104, WS	25 kW	Month-to-month. Credit to customer at the end of the year	No, prohibited in statute	Month-to-month credited per kWh at retail rate*. Annually utility purchases at avoided-cost rate	No	No	IOUs, electric cooperatives, and irrigation districts
Idaho	Tariff (Idaho Power as example. Schedule 84.)	25 kW for residential and small commercial 100 kW for other rate classes Utility tariffs limit to 0.1% in baseline year	Month-to-month. Excess credits carry forward indefinitely until entirely used to offset consumption	$100 application fee. Net metering tariff — including current rate structure and interconnection requirements — does not represent guarantee of future pricing	Residential and small commercial customers, credited at retail rate. Large commercial and agricultural customers, credited at 85% avoided-cost rate	No	May transfer excess generation between meters among customer accounts if meters are on same primary feeder, located on same contiguous property, and electricity is for customer	IOUs have developed a tariff to allow net metering that is approved by the PUC
Nevada	NRS 704.766 – 704.775	1 MW Generation capacity may not exceed the limit on demand that the class of customer may place on the utility's system or 100% of the customer's annual electricity requirements, whichever is greater IOUs must offer net metering until the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems in the state equals 3% of the peak capacity of all utilities	Month-to-month or time of use. Excess credits carry forward indefinitely until entirely used to offset consumption	For systems up to 25 kW, utility prohibited from charging a fee greater than other customers in the same rate class. For systems greater than 25 kW, utility may require payment for upgrades to the utility's system, excluding standby charges required to make the customer's system compatible	Either a standard rate schedule or a time of use rate schedule Standard rate schedule accumulate credits at a constant level. Time of use are billed at different rates at different times of the day If the utility installs system, then the electricity is generated by the utility and is used to comply with the state's RPS. If the customer installs the system , the PUC issues credits	No	Hydro with a capacity up to 1 MW may offset electricity on multiple contiguous properties owned by the customer Wind installed during 2012 on property owned or leased by an institution of higher learning and used for research and workforce training may aggregate	IOUs

State	Authority	Capacity Limits	Carry-over of NEG	Surcharge or additional cost for connection	Avoided Cost or Retail Rate for NEG	Community or virtual net metering	Multiple accounts (aggregate)	Application
Colorado	CRS 40-2-124 and CRS 40-9.5-302(3)	For IOUs, systems sized up to 120% of the customer's annual average consumption For coops and municipals, residential systems up to 10 kW in capacity and commercial and industrial systems up to 25 kW	Month-to-month. IOU customers may make a 1 time election to indefinitely go month-to month or be annually reimbursed. Coops and municipals credited month-to-month and annually	Standard application fee between $100 and $1,000, depending on size of the system Fees can include fees include, but are not limited to, service and facility fee, general rate schedule adjustment and renewable energy standard adjustment	IOU customers credited at retail rate. After 12-month cycle, customers may roll over credit indefinitely or receive payment at average hourly incremental cost. Coops and municipals credited at retail rate month-to-month and annually at a rate determined by the utility	Yes. Solar gardens that generate no more than 2 MW and are located near a community with at least 10 subscribers to the generating facility	Yes. Customer must give 30 days' notice, and specify the order in which they want kWh credits applied to multiple meters. All affected meters must be on the same rate schedule	IOUs, cooperatives, and municipal utilities
North Dakota	Tariff (ND Admin. Code 69-09-07)	100 kW	Purchased by utility month-to-month	Utility may recover metering costs associated with production monitoring	Avoided cost, similar to QFs. Some utilities include a REC adder	No	No	IOUs
Washington	Chapter 80.60 RCW	100 kW Cumulative capacity could not exceed 0.25% of a utility's peak demand during 1996, but increased to 0.5% in 2014	Month-to-month. Credit to utility at the end of the year	No. Prohibited in statute.	Retail rate	Yes. Community solar projects in 2005 that are up to 75 kW in capacity. Individuals, local government, and business can participate and facilities can be locally or utility owned	Yes. In a billing month, after the primary meter's utility bill is offset, any excess credits are credited equally to the customer's remaining meters for the following month	IOUs, municipal utilities, and cooperative utilities

Net Metering Summaries from the U.S. Department of Energy:

Wyoming
http://energy.gov/savings/net-metering-40

Under Wyoming's net-metering law, investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives, and irrigation districts must offer customers with bi-directional electric meters the option to net meter. Net excess generation (NEG) produced by the customer is carried forward on a monthly basis. At the end of a 12-month period, payment for NEG is reconciled with the customer at an agreed rate.

Under the net-metering law, eligible technologies systems include photovoltaics, wind, hydroelectric, and biomass systems up to 25 kW in size.

When production exceeds the customer's needs over a month period, they are credited per kWh of NEG at their retail rate*. At the end of a 12-month cycle, the utility will purchase any unused renewable energy credits for NEG at the utility's avoided-cost rate. Under the law, utilities may not charge customers' fees in addition to minimum monthly charges that apply to other utility customers in similar rate classes. *The PSC has given utilities the freedom to apply rates other than the retail rate to monthly NEG. For instance, the Wyrulec Co. approved by the PSC in April 2008 applies the avoided-cost rate to monthly NEG to arrive at a monetary credit that is applied to the customer's next bill. Other utilities such as Rocky Mountain Power credit monthly NEG as a kWh credit, or full retail rate.

Systems must meet NEC, IEEE and UL technical standards. In addition, system owners must install a manual, lockable external disconnect switch and are responsible for all costs related to any modifications to the systems that may be required by the electric utility for purposes of safety and reliability. The Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) is authorized to adopt additional control and testing requirements necessary to protect public safety and system reliability.

Idaho
http://energy.gov/savings/idaho-power-net-metering

Idaho does not have a statewide net-metering policy. However, each of the state's three investor-owned utilities -- Avista Utilities, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power -- has developed a net-metering tariff that has been approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The framework of the utilities' net-metering programs is similar in that each utility: offers net metering to customers that generate electricity using solar, wind, hydropower, biomass or fuel cells; limits residential systems to 25 kW; limits aggregate net-metered capacity to 0.1% of the utility's peak demand in a baseline year (2000 for Idaho Power); and restricts any single customer from generating more than 20% of the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems.

For residential and small commercial customers, NEG is credited at Idaho Power's retail rate and carried forward to the next month. For large commercial and agricultural customers, NEG is credited at 85% of the utility's avoided-cost rate and carried forward to the next month.

Under Idaho Power's net-metering tariff, the customer is responsible for "all costs associated with any [utility] additions, modifications, or upgrades to any [utility] facilities that the [utility] determines are necessary as a result of the installation of the [generator] in order to maintain a safe, reliable electrical system."

Nevada
http://energy.gov/savings/net-metering-22

Nevada's original net-metering law was enacted in 1997. It has been amended several times. Systems up to 1 MW in capacity that generate electricity using solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and certain types of hydropower are allowed. Systems greater than 100 kW in capacity may be subject to certain costs at the utility's discretion.

A system is not eligible for net metering if its generating capacity exceeds the greater of the limit on demand that the class of customer of the customer-generator may place on the utility's system or 100% of the customer's annual electricity requirements. Each IOU operating in Nevada offers net metering until the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems in the state equals 3% of the peak capacity of all utilities operating in the state.

For net-metered systems up to 25 kW, utilities must offer the customer-generator a meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions. The utility may not charge these customer-generators any fee that would increase their minimum monthly charges to an amount greater than that of other customers in the same rate class. For net-metered systems greater than 25 kW, the utility may require a customer-generator to install -- at its own cost -- a meter capable of measuring generation output and customer load. In addition, a utility may require a customer-generator to pay for any upgrades to the utility's system, excluding standby charges required to make the customer's system compatible with the utility's system.

For all net-metered systems, customer NEG is carried over to the following month as a kWh credit indefinitely. If the cost of purchasing and installing a net-metered system is paid for in whole or in part by a utility, then the electricity generated by the system will be considered to be generated by the utility or acquired from a renewable-energy system for the purpose of complying with the state's RPS. If the cost of purchasing and installing the system was paid for by a customer, the PUC will issue to the customer portfolio energy credits (PECs).

If a customer is billed for electricity under a time-of-use schedule, any customer NEG during a given month will be carried forward to the same time-of-use period as the time-of-use period in which it was generated, unless the subsequent billing period lacks a corresponding time-of-use period. If there is no corresponding time-of-use period, then the NEG carried forward must be apportioned evenly among the available time-of-use periods. Excess generation fed to the grid is considered electricity generated or acquired by the utility to comply with Nevada's energy portfolio standard.

Hydropower facilities with a generating capacity up to 1 MW may offset electricity consumed on multiple contiguous properties owned by the customer generator. Aggregation in the case of a wind energy device installed during 2012 on property owned or leased by an institution of higher learning and used for research and workforce training is also allowed.

In July 2013, the PUC opened an investigation to examine the costs and benefits of net metering in Nevada. The investigation was opened in response to legislation passed by the 2013 Legislature, requiring the study. As part of the investigation, the PUC commissioned Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) to conduct a study to forecast the costs and benefits of net metering in Nevada. The PUC is tasked with determining if net metering customers should be treated as a separate rate class.

Colorado
http://energy.gov/savings/net-metering-3

Colorado's net metering policy was significantly updated in 2009. Under the law, systems sized up to 120% of the customer's annual average consumption that generate electricity using qualifying renewable-energy resources are eligible for net metering in IOU service territories. Municipal and cooperative utilities are subject to lesser capacity-based maximums.

Electricity generated at a customer's site can be applied toward meeting a utility's renewable-generation requirement under Colorado's RPS, though the RECs remain with the net metering customer unless purchased by the utility. There are also specific solar requirements.

Any customer's NEG in a month is applied as a kWh credit to the customer's next bill. If in a calendar year a customer's generation exceeds consumption, the utility reimburses the customer for the excess generation at the utility's average hourly incremental cost for the prior 12-month period. Net metering customers of an IOU may make a one-time election in writing on or before the end of the calendar year to have their NEG carried forward from month-to-month indefinitely. If the customer chooses this option, they will surrender all their kWh credits if and when they terminate service.

If a customer-generator does not own a single bi-directional meter, then the utility provides one free of charge. Systems over 10 kW in capacity require a second meter to measure the output for the counting of RECs. Customers accepting IOU incentive payments must surrender all RECs for the next 20 years. Cooperative and municipal utilities are free to develop their own incentive programs at their discretion but they are not subject to solar-specific requirements.

A single customer with multiple meters located on contiguous property may elect to have their generator offset the load measured at more than one meter. A customer who wants to aggregate their meters under net metering must give the utility at least 30-days' notice and must specify the order in which they want their kWh credits applied to the multiple meters. All affected meters must be on the same rate schedule.

Municipal utilities with more than 5,000 customers and all cooperative utilities offer net-metering. The law allows residential systems up to 10 kW in capacity and commercial and industrial systems up to 25 kW to be credited monthly at the retail rate for any net excess generation their systems produce. Cooperatives and municipal utilities are authorized to exceed the minimum size standards. The statute also requires the utilities to pay for remaining NEG at the end of an annual period but does not define what the annual period is or the rate at which it will be paid. The law says the utilities will make a payment based on a "rate deemed appropriate by the utility".

In 2010, Colorado passed legislation allowing for the creation of "community solar gardens" with a nameplate capacity of up to 2 MW in the service territory of Colorado's IOUs. A community solar garden may be owned by the utility itself or any other for-profit or nonprofit entity or organization and must have at least 10 subscribers. Subscribers receive kWh credits on their utility bills in proportion to the size of their subscription. Subscribers must be located in the same municipality or county in which the community solar garden is located. If, however, the subscriber lives in a county with a population less than 25,000, they may subscribe to a community solar garden in an adjacent county provided the same utility serves the site of the community solar garden and the property being offset by the subscriber's subscription.

North Dakota
http://energy.gov/savings/net-metering-28

North Dakota's net-metering policy, adopted in 1991 by the state Public Service Commission (PSC), applies to renewable-energy systems and combined heat and power systems up to 100 kW in capacity. Net metering is available to all customers of investor-owned electric utilities. It is not available to customers of municipal utilities or electric cooperatives. There is no specified statewide limit on the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems.

If a customer has NEG at the end of a monthly billing period, the utility purchases the NEG at the utility's avoided-cost rate. Customers retain ownership of renewable-energy credits (RECs) associated with the customer's load, while RECs associated with NEG convey to the utility (with compensation to the customer-generator). However, the utility may recover metering costs associated with production monitoring from a net-metered system. Some utilities also compensate customers at the avoided-cost rate plus a REC adder.

In 1991, the North Dakota Legislative Council's Committee on Administrative Rules objected to the PSC's provisions for net metering, asserting that the PSC violated legislative intent by establishing net metering. However, according to the PSC, net metering continues to be available to qualifying customers in North Dakota.

Washington
http://energy.gov/savings/net-metering-37

Washington's net-metering law applies to systems up to 100 kW in capacity that generate electricity using solar, wind, hydro, biogas from animal waste, or combined heat and power technologies. All customer classes are eligible, and all utilities -- including municipal utilities and electric cooperatives -- must offer net metering.

Net metering is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the cumulative generating capacity of net-metered systems equals 0.25% of a utility's peak demand during 1996. This limit increased to 0.5% on January 1, 2014. At least one-half of the utility's available aggregate net metering capacity is reserved for systems generating electricity using renewables.

Although the utility must provide a single, bi-directional meter, the customer must provide the current transformer enclosure (if required), the meter socket or sockets, and junction box. NEG is credited to the customer's next bill at the utility's retail rate. However, on April 30 of each calendar year, any remaining NEG is surrendered to the utility without compensation to the customer.

Meter aggregation is provided at a customer's request. (Meter aggregation is limited to 100 kW per customer.) The electricity produced by a meter-aggregated customer is first used to offset electricity provided by the utility to that customer; any excess kWh from a billing period will be credited equally to the customer's remaining meters.

Net-metered systems must include all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality and interconnection requirements established by the National Electric Code, the National Electric Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Utilities may not require net-metered customers to comply with additional safety or performance standards, or to purchase additional liability insurance. Utilities also may not charge customers any additional standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee or charge without approval from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). Utilities are not liable for damage caused by net-metered systems.

Utilities may require separate metering for production, and customers must pay all costs associated with the installation of production metering. While the ownership of RECs associated with generation is not specified in the state's net-metering law, the production incentive law states that customer-generators retain ownership of RECs.

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