



Distributed Generation FAQs

About DTE's Distributed Generation program

Q. What is **DTE's Distributed** Generation program?

A. Under the Distributed Generation program, participating DTE Energy customers with on-site generation can participate in the **program**. **Participating customers are compensated for energy they send into DTE's distribution system when they fulfill DTE Renewable Resource requirements.**

Q. Why was the Distributed Generation program created?

A. The Michigan Public Service **Commission (MPSC) approved DTE's Distributed Generation program (Rider 18)**, which **replaced DTE's Net Metering program (Rider 16)**. The MPSC, following the direction of **Michigan's 2016 Energy Law, directed DTE to update its compensation model for customers generating energy to more accurately reflect their use and generation of energy.** These customers will continue to use the grid for back-up energy and earn credits for selling energy back.

For current Net Metering customers

Q. **I've been enrolled in the** Net Metering program; how will things change for me?

A. Net Metering customers, and those who filed Net Metering applications before May 9, 2019, will be grandfathered in at Net Metering terms **for 10 years from the date of their property's initial enrollment.** After the ten years, the customer will transition to the Distributed Generation program. At the time of conversion, customers formally on Net Metering will be compensated for any remaining excess generation bank balances.

Q. How will I be notified about this change?

A. DTE has sent letters to Net Metering customers indicating the date they will transfer to the Distributed Generation program. In addition, prior to their transition date, these customers will receive communications from DTE.

Q. How will the Distributed Generation program impact my electric bill?

A. The impact to customer electric bills will depend on several factors. For example, the generating size of solar or wind installation, amount of energy consumed at the customer site, location of the generation on the home or business, and the amount of the generation that is consumed on site versus outflowed to **DTE's distribution system.**

How the Distributed Generation program works

Q. What did the MPSC approve on May 2, 2019?

A. The MPSC approved the use of an inflow/outflow billing mechanism and set the inflow rate at the full retail rate. They ordered that the outflow credit be based on the power supply component of the **customer's retail rate, minus transmission charges** – a rate equal to the amount of the actual costs of power supply, which ensures the customer is not getting credit for transmission and distribution services they are not providing.

Q. What is inflow and what is the inflow charge?

A. Inflow is the electricity the customer uses from the utility distribution system. The inflow charge is the **charge for electricity flowing into a distributed generation customer's premises and is the same DTE full-service rate according to the customer's retail rate schedule.**

Q. What is outflow, and what is the outflow credit amount?

A. Outflow is the electricity **generated by the customer's Distributed Generation project** that is not used on-site and is instead sent to the electric grid. The outflow credit is the rate for each unit of energy in **kilowatt hours (kWh) that is exported from the distributed generation customer to DTE's distribution system.** This credit is **based on the power supply component of the customer's retail rate, minus transmission charges.** Outflow credits can be used in each billing period to offset power supply charges on the bill.

Q. What if outflow credits exceed power supply charges for any given billing period?

A. **In any given month, it is possible that a distributed generation customer's system will produce more energy than the customer will use.** Should this occur, the customer's **outflow credit could exceed the power supply charges on the customer's bill.** In this instance, the excess credit amount will be carried forward and will offset future billing period power supply charges.

For **customers interested in participating in DTE's Distributed Generation program**

Q. **Who can participate in DTE's Distributed Generation program?**

A. Any DTE customer who generates a portion or all their own electricity with an eligible electric generator using a renewable energy **resource is eligible for DTE's Distributed Generation program.** Projects must be no larger than 150 kW; however, methane digester generation projects as large as 550 kW may also participate. The project must be sized so that it is no **larger than what is needed to meet a customer's annual electric energy needs.** The program is available on a **first come, first served basis subject to DTE's ability to limit program participation as provided for in state law.** For those interested in participating in DTE's Distributed Generation program, go to the [online application process](#).

Q. Are there other ways to support the growth of renewable energy?

A. **DTE's MIGreenPower program offers an easy and affordable way to support a greener Michigan and reduce carbon footprints.** Many of our customers participate in MIGreenPower, attributing up to 100% of their energy use to solar and wind generation. Plus, the program requires no additional investment in equipment or alterations to homes. [Learn more and sign up today.](#)

For customers participating in DTE's Solar Currents program

Q. How is my participation in Solar Currents affected?

A. **DTE Electric's Solar Currents Program provides customers an opportunity to sell their renewable energy credits (RECs) generated from their PV system to the Company for a term of up to 20 years.** The recent **changes to DTE Electric's net metering program (Rider 16) resulting from Public Act 341 and Public Act 342, and the Michigan Public Service Commission's Order in U-20162, do not affect the Company's obligation to continue to purchase RECs for the remaining 20-year term of each customer's Solar Currents Program Agreement (SCPA).**

In addition, the SCPA does not obligate the Company to provide net metering service beyond the Legislated and Commission approved 10-year term of Rider 16. References in the SCPA to net metering merely acknowledge **the customer's representation as taking service under DTE Electric's Net Metering Rider 16 at the time the SCPA was executed.**

The SCPA did not modify the term requirements of Rider 16. Since Michigan law changed, however, SCPA customers will be transitioned from Rider 16 to Rider 18 upon completion of their 10-year term under Rider 16 net metering consistent with all other net metering customers, as required by Michigan **law, the Company's Rider 16 tariff, and Michigan Public Service Commission Order.**

We are here to help. To get answers to your questions, call us at 800.482.8720 and select option 4.