

Standard Offer Versus Net Metering

Producers wishing to generate renewable electric power in Vermont and be connected to the electric grid must apply to the Vermont Public Service Board for approval under the Standard Offer Program or the Net Metering Program.* Below is a comparison highlighting some of the major differences. For a complete list of requirements, see Board Rules 5.100, 5.400, 5.500, and the Standard Offer Program Board Orders at <http://psb.vermont.gov>.

	Standard Offer Program	Net Metering Program
Permitting Process	<p>Applicants must file a petition for approval with the Board pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 and Board Rule 5.400.</p> <p>The petition must address all criteria outlined in 30 V.S.A. § 248 and include prefiled testimony and supporting documentation.</p> <p>The approval process may require site visits, public hearings, and evidentiary hearings.</p> <p>Applicants must enter into a long-term contract with the SPEED Facilitator.</p>	<p>Applicants download the net metering application form from the Board's website and submit the completed form to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The applicant attests that the project complies with all applicable requirements.</p> <p>Unless there are objections to the project, the project is approved within 10 to 30 days without a hearing. An application that is contested is subject to site visits, public hearings, and evidentiary hearings.</p>
Metering Requirements	<p>A meter with the capability of measuring hourly intervals and other requirements established by the SPEED Facilitator.</p>	<p>Utility-owned meter capable of registering reverse energy flows.</p>
Financial Considerations	<p>Applicants receive a predetermined contractual rate for each kWh produced by the project. The rate varies by the type of technology employed.</p> <p>Applicants are required to pay for publication of notice of the project in newspapers and for system impact studies of the project performed by the utility.</p> <p>Applicants will be required to pay for metering costs, interconnection charges, and charges to the SPEED Facilitator including a \$200 application fee, a refundable deposit, and an administrative charge that varies by project size and technology.</p>	<p>Applicants receive a bill credit at the full retail electric rate and are allowed to carry over and credit excess generation for 12 months pursuant to Board Rule 5.100. For excess energy produced beyond that covered by a credit, there is no financial benefit and electricity is provided to the utility without charge or credit.</p> <p>There are no application or deposit fees.</p> <p>Additional charges and fees from the electric utility, including interconnection charges and distribution system upgrades, may apply pursuant to Board Rule 5.100.</p>

Renewable Energy Credit Ownership	With the exception of farm methane and waste heat from CHP, all products associated with the production of the kWh flow to the utility.	Vermont places no restrictions on the attributes of renewable energy or renewable energy credits of net metered projects that serve as a credit to the bill. Additionally, a group net metering system may transfer all or a portion of its renewable energy credits to the utility as part of a purchase contract, pursuant to § 219a (k)(4).
Utility Interconnection	Applicants must conduct a system impact study pursuant to Board Rule 5.500.	Applicants must comply with interconnection standards specified in Board Rule 5.100.
*Projects Smaller than 150 kW	Standard Offer projects smaller than 150 kW need only submit the Short Form CPG Application located at www.Vermontspeed.com . This Short Form CPG Application serves as both the interconnection application and the 30 V.S.A. § 248 Certificate of Public Good application.	
*Projects Greater than 150 kW	Net metered projects greater than 150 kW must meet additional Net Metering Program requirements.	