

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

Consumer Guidelines for Electric Power Generator Installation and Interconnection

Your electric cooperative seeks to provide its members and patrons with the best electric service possible, and at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management. In some cases, cooperative members and patrons may become interested in installing their own electric power generation equipment. In these cases, your cooperative stands ready to work with you to ensure that your generation equipment is installed in a proper and safe manner, and in accordance with all applicable codes, standards, regulations, laws and insurance requirements. In most of these cases, you will also need to coordinate the installation and approval of your electric power generator with the local code inspection authority. Your cooperative engineers and customer service representatives can also help identify the appropriate contact for this purpose.

Special Accelerated Application Process for Very Small Generators

If you are planning to install photovoltaic (PV) or other generators less than 3 kilowatts (kW) in a home residence or farm, we have established a special streamlined process to make it easy for you to complete the installation.

Not to be Interconnected

If your very small generator is not to be interconnected with the electric power system, all you need to do is give us a call, and provide us with the electrical capacity, manufacturer and name of your electrical installer. We may ask you to send us a copy of your manufacturer information. There is no formal application or fee required.

To be Interconnected

If you are planning to interconnect your generator with the cooperative's electric power distribution system, you need to complete Part 1 of the attached application and submit it to us. You also need to sign our streamlined contract form (copy of Short Form contract attached).

Generators Not Interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System

You may be planning to install a generator for isolated operation, with no connection to the cooperative distribution system. Find your specific situation below.

Small Generator Installation (30 kW or less and not interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System)

Small Emergency Generator (5,000 watts or less)

If you are considering installation of a small emergency generator, typically running on gasoline or diesel fuel oil, you are probably not planning to interconnect your generator with the cooperative electric power distribution system. It is important that your installation is safe to you, safe to other customers and to our utility workers. It also should not interfere with your electric cooperative's reliable supply of electric power to your residence or other facility. To accomplish this, care must be taken to install your generator so that it will either 1) only start up to serve your entire load when you have disconnected from the electric power grid, or 2) you are only serving isolated loads where there is a choice of power supply (the cooperative system or your emergency generator). Our cooperative engineers are available to help you review your installation plans to ensure that to the greatest extent possible you will not endanger safety or reliability on the cooperative's electrical distribution system. If your generator is 5,000 watts or less, there is no charge for our engineers to review your installation plans.

Generators Up to 30,000 Watts

You may be planning to install a larger emergency generator (greater than 5,000 watts), or a generator up to 30,000 watts (30 kW) for other than emergency operation, and not planning to interconnect your generator with the cooperative electric distribution system. You are required to complete Part 1 of the attached application to notify us of your plans. You should also let us know once your generator is up and running.

Generator Installation (greater than 30 kW and not interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System)

Installation of larger generators within a customer facility has the potential to impact distribution system operations. If you are planning to install a large generator, you must complete Parts 1 and 2 of the attached application and submit it to us so we are aware of your plans. We will review your plans to ensure that your installation is not interconnected, and to make certain to the greatest extent possible that your installation will not endanger safety or reliability on the cooperative's electrical distribution system. We want to make sure that your installation will not place our utility workers in any danger of electric shock. We will report back to you with our findings within 12 business days of your application.

Generators Interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System

When installing a generator and planning to interconnect with the distribution system, we must review your plans to ensure that personnel safety and system reliability will not be compromised.

Due to the all-requirement terms of CVEC's wholesale power purchase contracts, we are unable to buy any power from customers. CVEC is willing to wheel excess power across our distribution facilities, if the appropriate agreements are executed.

Generator Installation and Interconnection with the Cooperative Distribution System (all generators)

Customers may wish to install their new generator and interconnect it with the cooperative electric distribution system. In these cases, you need to complete the attached application form. If your proposed generator installation is 30,000 watts or less and no power will be exported, you only need to complete Part 1 of the application¹. If your generator is more than 30,000 watts, you must complete Parts 1 and 2. Submit your application to the CVEC representative as indicated below.

Once we receive your application, we will review your proposed generator installation. If we approve your application, we will let you know if there are special steps you need to take during the generator installation process. We may request additional information regarding your planned installation. We will also ask you to sign a contract in which you agree to operate your generator safely, maintain the unit properly, and maintain insurance as needed. We will furnish you an advance copy of the contract upon request.

You can give us a call at anytime during this review process to find out the status of your application. If your application is not approved for any reason, we will explain the reason and be available to discuss your plans.

As part of our application review process, we will examine the ability of the cooperative electric distribution system to accept your new power generation unit. On certain parts of our system, we may need to replace existing equipment or add some new equipment in order to accommodate customer generation. Your cooperative will then incur costs beyond what is normally required to operate and maintain the system to benefit all members. To be fair to all members, you will need to pay for any system upgrades that will be needed. If this is the case for your planned generator installation, we will advise you of the additional cost, and seek your agreement before approving your application. You will also be asked to sign a system upgrade contract that obligates you to reimburse us for the additional expense incurred on your behalf. You must pay the estimated cost in advance and a billing settlement will be performed based upon actual costs, once the work has been completed.

¹ If power export is planned, you must complete Parts 1 and 2 of the Application.

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Submit your application to your electric cooperative representative as follows:

Cooperative contact: Bruce Maurhoff
Title: Engineering Manager
Address: P.O. Box 247
Livingston, VA 22949

Phone: (434) 263-7622
Fax: (434) 263-8339
e-mail: engineering@forcvec.com