



Understanding Your Xcel Energy Bill with Solar

Understanding your Xcel bill can be challenging. This document is here to help provide some clarity as well as point you to some of Xcel's direct resources.

Please start by reviewing the Xcel Energy net metering and billing FAQ:

<https://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xcel-responsive/Archive/Net-Metering-and-Billing-FAQs.pdf>.

You can also reach the Xcel Solar Rewards support line at 800-895-4999.

Your PV system is connected to and interacts with the grid.

Your home may have two meters after installing solar – a **Main Billing Meter** and a ***Production Meter**. If equipped with two meters, they will each produce their own statements each month, and it will be helpful for you to login to the Xcel Energy online portal and confirm you can toggle between your production meter and net meter's accounts. If you are unable to see both when you are logged into your portal, you will need to call Xcel Energy at 800.895.4999 to have that access added.

**For systems installed before 2011, there is likely no Production Meter. Additionally, Xcel stopped requiring installation of production meters sometime in 2020 for systems under 10kW.*

Net Metering:

This is the term for how your meter counts and tracks kilowatt hours (kWh) flowing from your home to the grid as well as from the grid to your home. When your PV system produces more kWh than your home is currently consuming, your meter is crediting your account bank by "spinning backward". At times when your PV system is not producing, or when it's not producing more than what is currently being consumed by your home, your meter counts the kWh coming from the grid, "spinning forward." This tracking of kWh's to and from the grid allows Xcel to monetize the value of any excess kWh's so that you are able to pull from your accumulated "net" bank when you need it. At the end of each billing cycle, you will be charged if your home needed more kWh than your system was able to produce. If you produced more than your home consumed, those credits are available in later billing cycles when you need them. There will likely be months where you overconsume as well as months where you overproduce.

Fixed Fees: Even in months where your system produces what the home consumes (or more), there will be fixed fees on your bill. You will see these fixed fees each month.

Main Billing Meter:

Once your solar system is up and running, your main billing meter will now have what is called a "Net Meter." This digital meter is the one capable of "spinning" both forward and backward (explained above).



Your monthly bill will have a table that shows you if you were a net producer or net consumer for that billing period. In the following example, this customer was a net producer. It's important to note that this table does not show you the total produced by your PV system and the total consumed by your home, rather it is showing the net or difference between those two things. If you were a net consumer (produced less than consumed), you will see a value in the "Net Delivered by Xcel" section. If you were a net producer, you will only see the net amount that was produced (after your homes consumption has been factored in) in the "Net Generated by Customer" section. Xcel only quantifies net positive, so one of these lines will always read "0" even if your system is producing energy.

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT READING	PREVIOUS READING	USAGE
Total Energy	4005 Actual	4190 Actual	185 kWh
Net Delivered by Xcel	0 Actual	0 Actual	0 kWh
Net Generated by Customer	185 Actual	0 Actual	185 kWh

ELECTRICITY CHARGES		RATE: R Residential General	
DESCRIPTION	USAGE UNITS	RATE	CHARGE
Service & Facility			\$5.47
Summer Tier 1*	185 kWh	-\$0.054610	-\$10.10 CR
Summer Tier 1*	0 kWh	\$0.054610	\$0.00
Trans Cost Adj	0 kWh	\$0.001080	\$0.00
Elec Commodity Adj	0 kWh	\$0.031990	\$0.00
Elec Commodity Adj	0 kWh	\$0.035440	\$0.00
Demand Side Mgmt Cost	0 kWh	\$0.001930	\$0.00
Demand Side Mgmt Cost	0 kWh	\$0.001770	\$0.00
Purch Cap Cost Adj	0 kWh	\$0.004150	\$0.00
CACJA	0 kWh	-\$0.000090	\$0.00
ElecCommodityAdjCr	172.24 kWh	-\$0.031990	-\$5.51 CR
ElecCommodityAdjCr	12.76 kWh	-\$0.035440	-\$0.45 CR
Trans Cost Adj Cr	185 kWh	-\$0.001080	-\$0.20 CR
Purch Cap Cost Adj Cr	185 kWh	-\$0.004150	-\$0.77 CR
Demand Side MgmtCostCr	172.24 kWh	-\$0.001930	-\$0.33 CR
Demand Side MgmtCostCr	12.76 kWh	-\$0.001770	-\$0.02 CR
CACJA Cr	185 kWh	\$0.000090	\$0.02
GRSA E	185 kWh	-\$0.008757	-\$1.62 CR
Trans Elec Plan	0 kWh	\$0.000460	\$0.00
Trans Elec PlanCr	185 kWh	-\$0.000460	-\$0.09 CR

Production Meter:

This meter will only "spin forward," counting the total kWh your system produces over time. On your bill (and on the example below) find the "Total Energy Produced" row. You will be able to see on the far right what was produced in that billing cycle. It can be confusing when it's listed as "Usage" but in this scenario, that is the total amount that was produced, regardless of if your home ended up being a net consumer or producer during that period. Keep in mind this is tied to your billing cycle which may not line up with what you see as your monthly production in your PV system's monitoring portal (if you have monitoring). Not all systems are equipped with a production meter.



DESCRIPTION	CURRENT READING	PREVIOUS READING	USAGE
Total Energy Produced	32188 Actual	31308 Actual	880 kWh

ELECTRICITY CHARGES

DESCRIPTION	USAGE UNITS	RATE	CHARGE
Res Production Meter			\$1.15
SmPrgmMnthlyRecPmt	880 kWh	-\$0.020000	-\$17.60 CR
Total			-\$16.45 CR

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What happens to the credits I produce? Do I get paid for them or do they roll over?

A: At the time of installation (or when you transferred account owners with Xcel), you were required to make a one time decision for how these credits would be treated via the Solar Bank Election Form. Namaste Solar recommends folks select continuous rollover as that is a major assumption we use when designing the system. Because production/consumption ebbs/flows throughout the year, viewing the expected production/consumption through an annual lens is important when thinking of the total electrical offset. If continuous rollover is selected, any credits created in a given billing cycle are simply carried forward and applied to a future billing cycle as needed. They do not expire and you cannot receive a "payout" for any balance created. They are also non-transferrable to another account/homeowner.

For folks who select to "waive their decision" will be paid out at the wholesale rate one time per year. The wholesale rate is a fraction of what Xcel charges you for your electricity, so there is no monetary gain by selection this option. Historical wholesale rates have hovered around \$0.015/kWh produced.

Q: Why does my Xcel bill seem larger than normal?

A: It depends on many factors but here are some common things to consider. The percent offset that your system was designed for was likely based on historical consumption. If any of your consumption habits have changed (+/-), it will impact the total offset. Things like number of folks in the home, work/school from home, electric vehicles, hot tubs, space heaters, etc. can all have a substantial impact on consumption.

It's also important to note that many homeowners receive both Electrical and Natural Gas from Xcel. An increase in your total bill does not necessarily mean it's based on increased electrical consumption as it could be due to using more natural gas too.

Q: How does solar production work?

A: [Understanding Solar PV Production.pdf \(namastesolar.com\)](https://www.namastesolar.com/Understanding_Solar_PV_Production.pdf)

Should you continue to have questions that are specific to your bill, speaking directly with Xcel will likely yield the best answers. If you have questions about the health of your system, please check out other FAQs to see if they can help. If not, we are here to help and are happy to schedule a system inspection for you.