

Renewables vs D.E.R.s

Renewable energy is useful energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, including carbon neutral sources like sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Private renewable systems are becoming more popular as a distributed energy resource (DER). Not all DERs are renewable, and not all renewables are DERs. A system that is entirely off-grid is not considered a DER. Rather, a DER is defined as a small-scale unit of power generation that is located on the consumer's side of the meter and is connected to a larger power grid at the distribution level.

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC IS YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY EXPERT

If you are considering a private wind or solar installation, we're here to help. We can assist you with understanding your energy needs and the precautions necessary to ensure the safety of lineworkers and emergency personnel. We can also explain the interconnection agreements that are required to utilize renewables while remaining connected to the grid.

Some D.E.R. examples:

- roof top solar photovoltaic units
- wind generating units
- battery storage
- batteries in electric vehicles used to export power back to the grid
- combined heat and power units, or tri-generation units that also utilize waste heat to provide cooling
- biomass generators, which are fueled with waste gas or industrial and agricultural by-products
- open and closed cycle gas turbines
- reciprocating engines (diesel, oil)
- hydro and mini-hydro schemes
- fuel cells



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RENEWABLE ENERGY



**WORKING WITH PRAIRIE LAND
AND SUPPLEMENTAL POWER**

Getting Started with Solar



1. Call Prairie Land -- Call 1-800-577-3323 and get assistance on calculating your energy needs and information about safety measures that protect lineworkers and emergency personnel.
2. Gather Information -- We offer some resources with frequently asked questions and steps to take before installation.
3. Find an Installer -- It's best to get a few bids to choose from. We have a list of questions you may want to ask each contractor.
4. Apply for Interconnection -- Read the Interconnection Agreement and work with your installer to complete the application. Return it with the required diagrams, the rider selection form, and your fee.
5. Complete the Installation -- Once your application is approved you can begin building your system.
6. Certificate of Completion -- This form will be turned in by your installer. Once we have this, Prairie Land will inspect the system and hook up your new net meter.

Myths About Solar

MYTH: Electric Cooperatives do not support renewable energy.
FALSE

MYTH: Your electric bill will be reduced to zero as a result of solar panels.
FALSE

MYTH: You don't need to contact your electric cooperative until you're ready to interconnect your solar system.
FALSE

MYTH: Solar panels are good options for members on low income or who struggle to pay their bills.
FALSE

MYTH: Solar contractors/salesmen are your best source of information for distributed generation, including solar.
PERHAPS

Each electric provider handles interconnection agreements in their own way, so establish a contractor-homeowner-cooperative partnership early in the process so there are no surprises.

