

## **Rooftop Solar Regulations**

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# **The Emirate of Dubai**

## **Summary of Policy Regulations**

# Key regulation on rooftop solar energy: Executive Council Decision (No. 46 of 2014)

- The regulation provides a clear legislative framework regulating the connection of generators of electricity to the power distribution system.
- It therefore regulates the connection of both residential and commercial solar power generating units to the power grid in the Emirate of Dubai.
- It is applicable to all generators that have a consumption account in Dubai, including special development zones and free zones.
- Persons who wish to connect their generator of electricity to the distribution system should enter into a connection agreement with the authority.
- The consent of the authority is required to transfer the rights and obligations under the connection agreement.
- The roof top solar scheme is known as Shams Dubai, which provides details and guidelines for different categories, including customers, consultants, contractors, and equipment manufacturers.

# The net metering Scheme:

- The electricity generated in the premise is to be consumed within the premises associated to one consumption account and if there is more than one consumption account then it is to be consumed within any premises associated to the consumption accounts within the plot.
- When a surplus electricity is generated above the electricity consumed in the premises, such surplus can then be exported to the power distribution system of the authority.
- Units of the import electricity and units of the export electricity within the same billing cycle will then be processed to clear the account based on the offset.
- If the units of the export electricity are in excess of the units of the import electricity within any billing cycle, the excess units of the export electricity to the authority shall be credited in the name of the producer. In the subsequent consumption billing, the offset between credited export electricity and the import electricity shall be processed.
- Note that the scheme only provides for an offset to be processed against the surplus electricity and therefore no payment shall be disbursed to the producer against any surplus electricity.
- Importantly, DEWA is to specify the maximum limit of electricity which can be exported back to the grid by each generator. However, this limit has not been currently set.

# **The Emirate of Abu Dhabi**

## **Summary of Policy Regulations**

## The energy netting scheme (small scale solar):

- It is the mandatory arrangement between the producer and the distribution company for electricity exchange and clearing.
- It can be done via one service point linked to one service meter only in single premises. A producer is not allowed to benefit from the scheme for several service points in the same premises.
- Surplus electricity generated will be exported to the distribution network and recorded in the Customer Care & Billing System. This surplus is then carried forward indefinitely from one billing cycle to the next, without any limitation of time or quantity and shall only be offset against future electricity consumption under a service point.
- Also this surplus carried forward cannot be transferred for offsetting against electricity consumption of any other person, account or service agreement, or transferred for offsetting against electricity consumption of the producer under service agreements in the same premise or different premise.
- The producer shall be billed by the distribution company for the remaining electricity supplied (if any) after deducting any generated electricity.
- Note that as same as Dubai, the producer is not entitled to any monetary compensation for the surplus electricity exported to the distribution network.

# **Solar Energy in Oman**

## **Summary of Policy Regulations**

# The Regulation on rooftop solar energy: The Sahim Scheme

- Oman recently launched the Sahim scheme which was developed by the AER, as an initiative to install solar photovoltaic panels in homes as well as public and private facilities.
- The scheme aims to reduce the country's dependence on conventional sources of energy whilst allowing the customers to export their excess electricity back into the grid.
- The scheme proposes the installation of rooftop PV systems ranging in size from 2KW to 4KW.
- The PV systems participating in the scheme must incorporate approved metering systems to meter hourly PV export to the grid to facilitate settlement with time based elements of the bulk supply tariff.
- The scheme will be subjected to capacity limits and implemented in phases.
- The scheme will enable consumers to contact AER to refer them to entities that would carry out the installation of the PV systems. Although consumers will be fully responsible for paying for the installation of the PV systems, they will benefit from not only the long term cost savings associated with solar energy but also by being able to sell the excess capacity back to the government.



## The Sahim scheme:

- Main difference when compared to UAE schemes, is that there is no net metering system to be established for the reasons of expected magnitude of PV self-supply, the complexity of accounting for net metering balances, and the given disparity between the economic cost of supply and the residential tariff.
- Instead, the scheme will be based on an accelerated subsidy adjustment where in anticipation of future subsidy reductions, an agreed amount of future subsidy is provided to the authority to fund an initial stage of the initiative.
- The consumers therefore will be required to contribute to the cost of installing a PV system, and then will be awarded the full benefit of ongoing bill reductions in the future.
- Under the scheme, the consumers will be able to sell power back to the grid at the prevailing electricity tariff.
- Tariff varies depending on time of consumption and therefore the benefit to customers would vary from time to time.
- However, with storage technology, there may be opportunities to arbitrage.

# **Solar Energy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

## **Summary of Policy Regulations**

# The Regulation on rooftop solar energy: Small-scale solar PV systems Regulations

- The regulation set out the regulatory framework for the connection of a small-scale solar PV systems to the distribution system.
- The regulation aims to achieve a regulatory system, related processes and charges pertaining to promoting distribution system connected small-scale solar PV systems in the KSA, to establish net metering arrangements for surplus energy to be exported to the distribution system, and to ensure the efficient and safe construction, installation, maintenance and operation of small-scale solar PV systems in all premises in KSA.
- The regulation is not applicable to solar PV systems greater than 1MW capacity or smaller than 1KW capacity or to solar systems which does not operate in parallel with the distribution system.
- PV installation is required to be in the same premises as customer consumption. Therefore it does not allow wheeling, which is producing energy at one location and consuming the produced energy at another location.

## The net metering scheme:

- Net metering arrangements are to be done via one exit point linked to one single meter in a premises.
- The eligible consumer cannot benefit from a net metering arrangement for several consumption accounts in the same premises.
- Surplus electricity generated is to be exported to the distribution system and be recorded in the billing system.
- Such surplus electricity shall be carried forward from one billing cycle to the next and shall be offset against future electricity consumption at an exit point.
- Surplus electricity carried forward cannot be transferred for offsetting against electricity consumption of any other person, consumption account, or transferred for offsetting against electricity consumption of the eligible consumer under consumption account in the same premises or different premises.
- The distribution service provider is required to bill the eligible consumer for the remaining electricity supplied (if any) after deducting any exported electricity generated to the distribution system.
- Unlike in the UAE, the surplus units will be rolled over for a period of three years and at the end of the period the distribution service provider shall prepare and pay a tariff to the eligible consumer upon receiving ECRA's approval.
- Any accrued credit amount of surplus electricity shall be paid upon termination of the connection agreement with the distribution service provider.

# **Solar Energy in Jordan**

## **Summary of Policy Regulations**

# Key regulation on rooftop solar energy: Rooftop Solar Regulations, REEL and Net Metering Instructions

- The various Regulations and laws in Jordan provide a clear legislative framework regulating the connection of generators of electricity to the power distribution system. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Law No 13 of 2012 ("REEL") allows for the sale of power from renewable energy systems to Distcos, thus allowing for net-metering.
- Customers in Jordan may generate electricity from renewable energy sources in three ways: on-site net metering, on-site self-generation and off-site wheeling. For rooftop solar systems, net metering rules similar to those in Dubai apply.
- Jordan's electricity market structure is based on a single-buyer model. NEPCO operates the transmission grid, buying power from generators according to long-term PPAs and selling to Distcos and occasionally to direct Customers.
- In Jordan, regulating the solar rooftop program is mainly shared between MEMR, EMRC, NEPCO and the three Distcos: Jordan Electric Power Company ("JEPCO"), Irbid District Electricity Company ("IDECO"), and Electricity Distribution Company ("EDCO"). The Greater Amman Municipality plays a role in regulating the solar rooftop program as well. MEMR's role in the net metering scheme is limited to issuing the sales tax and customs exemptions for the renewable energy systems.
- EMRC issued the relevant legislation governing the net metering and wheeling schemes in Jordan. In these legislations, EMRC defines the relevant tariffs payable by Distcos and the solar system specifications and meters. EMRC is also the licensing body
- Nationwide thresholds apply: Low voltage systems (maximum 1 kilovolt) of each Distco shall not exceed 1% of such grid's maximum electrical load. Medium voltage systems (maximum capability between 1 kilovolt and 33 kilovolts) shall not exceed 1.5% of the grid's maximum electrical load.

## The net metering Scheme:

- The net metering mechanism under Jordan's program is similar to Dubai's, except that in Jordan, the Producer may apply and receive a final monetary settlement at the end of each year. The net metering tariff from solar powered systems is currently 120 fils/kWH (approximately \$0.168/kWH).
- When a surplus electricity is generated above the electricity consumed in the premises, such surplus can then be exported to the power distribution system of the authority.
- The authorities will not approve the generation of solar electricity in excess of the Customer's actual or average electricity use for the immediately preceding year.
- The maximum capacity a Producer may install on any one location is 5 MW. The connection application and the connection agreement must be approved by the relevant Distco or NEPCO. The capacity should not exceed the electrical load estimated by the Distco.
- The rights and/or obligations of a developer are not addressed in the relevant Jordanian legislation, and ordinary contractual principles apply.

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