

From: Scot Drysdale [mailto:scot@cs.dartmouth.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:04 PM
To: Howland, Debra
Subject: Preserve net metering

About five years ago I put rooftop solar on my house. Without net metering I would not have been able to afford it.

There are those who claim that net metering is an unfair subsidy to people like me, but I see it differently. Our peak demand in NH occurs on hot, sunny summer afternoons. In fact, my employer is part of a program whereby its electricity rates in part depend on how successfully it reduces electricity use at times when it is asked to by the utilities. About a half dozen days each summer we get emails asking us to shut off all lights, computers, etc. that are not absolutely needed when such a call goes out. Reducing peak demand means avoiding buying very expensive electricity on the spot market and reduces the need for building new centralized generating stations.

I and others with rooftop solar generate more electricity under these sorts of conditions than practically any other time. The electrons we pour back onto the grid directly reduce the peak demand and allow the utility to buy power our power at the standard retail rate rather than at the very expensive spot rate. Our installations save the utilities money at these times. If the utilities want to pay us only the wholesale rate it should be based on the current spot market rate at the time that we put power onto the grid, not on an average. I believe that I would come out ahead if that happened.

Please follow the science on this issue.

Robert Drysdale
Hanover, NH