



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

# Oppose Rocky Mountain Power Proposal

1 message

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To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

I emphatically oppose the proposal Rocky Mountain Power has recently made to change their net metering system. The proposal, if passed would totally abolish energy independence and homeowner emergency preparedness while at the same time increasing CO2 emissions statewide. I want to install solar panels as soon as I get a house, and the proposal, if passed, would prevent solar as a viable investment to any homeowner. This is essentially Rocky Mountain Power saying, "ok, here, you give us 1000 kWh's of the power that you produced, and we can use that however we want, and we will give you back 300 Kwh's, while charging you additional fees and surcharges." They are not only stealing power but they are eliminated any future competition to their solutions. If this passed, they will undoubtedly continue to raise their rates, and benefit from their natural monopoly. Please do not allow them to make any changes to their current program, as it is not only, fair has been promoted by them for the last 40 years. The only reason they want to change, is so they can guarantee payment to their investors. They have had control over homeowners for long enough. Do not allow them to exercise this terrible proposal in any way or form. On their website they say that Rocky Mountain Power will not make any additional money through the rate change. This is utterly false. Utah Government, How can you incentivize solar installations with a \$2000.00 state tax credit and accept this change that will cost homeowners much more than that? Rocky Mountain ran their own study to "prove" the needed this. Here are 7 studies proving just the opposite, that net metering is actually an economic benefactor utility companies.

This separates the myths and facts of net metering:

<https://mediamatters.org/research/2015/09/14/myths-and-facts-about-net-metering-for-solar-en/205519>



## Myths And Facts About Net Metering For Solar Energy

[mediamatters.org](https://mediamatters.org)

Net metering policies, which allow utilities' customers to send energy from solar panels on their homes into the electric grid in exchange for a credit, are being threatened by efforts in several states to roll back or dismantle the policies -- most of which are bolstered by anti-solar

**Environment America Study: Economic Benefits Of Net Metering Outweigh Costs.** A report from the Frontier Group for Environment America details the different benefits that arise from net metering. Net metering provides economic benefits to the electric grid, including savings from reduced electricity transmission (net metered solar energy is provided

on-site), avoided capital and capacity investment, reduced financial risks, increased grid resiliency, and avoided environmental compliance costs. The report also explains benefits for "the environment and society at large," including avoided greenhouse gas emissions, reduced air pollution, and increased economic development and job creation. [Environment America, [Summer 2015](#)]

**Analyses By Multiple Utilities Found Benefits Outweigh Costs.** Several studies done by utility and non-utility groups alike found the net benefits of net metering to be approximately equal to, or greater than, its costs.

- In a report by the Massachusetts Net Metering and Solar Task Force, task force member Eric Krathwohl stated that economic benefits of solar installation exceed \$14 billion, or 20 cents/kWh -- close to the residential price of electricity in Massachusetts of 19.52 cents/kWh, according to the most recent data from the Energy Information Administration. Further, a report from the Acadia Center on the "value of solar" - which factors in climate benefits -- found that the value that solar photovoltaic systems provide to the grid ranges between 22 to 28 cents/kWh, with additional societal benefits of 6.7 cents/kWh. [Mass.gov, [4/30/15](#); EIA.gov, [7/27/15](#); The Acadia Center, [April 2015](#)]
- A report carried out by Crossborder Energy for VoteSolar found California's net metering policies bring \$92.2 million in economic benefits per year [Vote Solar, accessed [7/16/15](#), Crossborder Energy, [January 2013](#)]
- A study conducted by Energy and Environmental Economics for the Nevada Public Utilities Commission found that net metering systems "benefit all ratepayers by a total of \$36 million," including non-participants in the state's net metering program. [State of Nevada Public Utilities Commission, [July 2014](#)]
- A study by Synapse Energy Economics for the Public Service Commission of Mississippi concluded: "Net metering provides net benefits (benefit-cost ratio above 1.0) under almost all of the scenarios and sensitivities analyzed." [Synapse Energy Economics, [9/19/14](#)]
- The Missouri Energy Initiative, a nonprofit association of public and private sector entities, found that "the net effect of net metering in Missouri is positive. This is because, even valuing cross-subsidization effects at their full estimates and including administrative costs as if they were a flow instead of a stock, benefits in every year (2008-2012) are greater than the costs." [Missouri Energy Initiative, [Winter 2015](#)]
- The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) reported that a study by the Maine Public Utilities Commission found that the "value of solar power produced in Maine is 33 cents/kilowatt-hour. In comparison, customers who put solar panels on their roofs only receive a credit on their bill worth about 13 cents/kilowatt-hour." NRCM concluded, "Net-metering is the policy, used in Maine and many states, that allows homes and businesses with solar arrays to be credited for power they provide to the grid at the same rate they pay for power they take from the grid. Electric utilities in Maine and elsewhere have attacked net-metering because they have undervalued the benefits that solar provides. The Maine study, like others conducted around the nation, provides evidence that net-metering is providing a substantial public benefit." [Natural Resources Council of Maine, [3/3/15](#)]

**Environment America: Majority Of Cost-Benefit Analyses Show Positive Benefit.** Environment America compiled 11 cost-benefit analyses that have been carried out on solar net metering and found that most show the economic benefits outweighing the costs:

- All 11 analyses reviewed here found that solar energy brought net benefits to the grid.
- Eight analyses out of 11 found that the value of solar energy was worth more than the average residential retail electricity rate in the area at the time the analysis was conducted. The three analyses that found different results were all commissioned by utilities.
- Of these 11 analyses, the median value of rooftop solar energy was 16.90 cents per kWh, compared with an average U.S. residential retail electricity rate of 11.88 cents per kWh in 2012.
- The studies that estimated lower values for solar energy consistently undervalued, or did not include, important environmental and societal benefits that come from generating electricity from the sun.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Chris Hurley